CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Iran: Neighbours safe unless they attack first

Iran says it won't hit neighbouring states unless first attacked, even amid widening conflict triggered by expanded US Israeli military strikes

NEW DELHI

Iran has said it will not target neighbouring countries during the ongoing regional war unless attacks against it originate from their territories, as the conflict involving Israel and the United States entered its eighth day with escalating military action across West Asia.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the country's interim leadership council had decided to avoid further attacks on neighbouring states unless they were directly involved in strikes against Iran.

"The leadership council agreed that no missiles will be fired at neighbouring countries unless attacks on Iran originate from them," Pezeshkian said in a speech broadcast on state television, while also apologising to regional states affected by earlier strikes.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said Washington would only accept Tehran's "unconditional surrender" to end hostilities, even as the United States and Israel continued large-scale air strikes on Iranian targets.

According to Israeli military officials, more than 80 Israeli fighter jets carried out attacks on military infrastructure in cities including Tehran and Isfahan, while Iranian forces launched retaliatory missile and drone strikes across the region.

The war has already caused heavy casualties. Officials say at least 1,230 people have been killed in Iran, over 200 in Beirut and around a dozen in Israel. Six American soldiers have also died in the fighting.

Explosions and air raid sirens were reported in Jerusalem on Saturday as the conflict intensified, while tensions spread across Gulf countries amid fears of a wider regional war.

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, condemned the attacks across the region as unlawful and warned the conflict could spiral out of control without urgent diplomatic intervention. The fighting has also disrupted civilian life and regional infrastructure.

- **War duration:** 9 days
- **Countries directly involved:** Iran, Israel, United States
- **Major cities struck:** Tehran, Isfahan, Beirut, Jerusalem
- **Major concern:** Escalation into wider regional war

REPORTED DEATHS:	
IRAN: 1,230+	LEBANON: 200+
ISRAEL: AROUND 12	US TROOPS: 6

GULF AIR TRAVEL DISRUPTED

The ongoing conflict has severely disrupted air travel in the Gulf region. Authorities temporarily halted operations at Dubai International Airport after aerial interceptions near the facility. Flights were diverted and aircraft circled in holding patterns before limited operations resumed later in the day. Airlines including Emirates suspended several services and advised passengers not to travel to the airport until further notice. Aviation authorities said the suspension was a precautionary step to ensure passenger safety amid missile and drone threats across the region.

Trump claims Iran 'surrendered' to Middle East neighbours after strikes

WASHINGTON

Donald Trump has claimed that Iran has "lost" and effectively surrendered to its Middle Eastern neighbours following a week of intense military pressure from the United States and Israel.

In a post on Truth Social on Saturday, Trump said Iran had apologised to neighbouring countries and promised it would not launch attacks against them unless provoked. According to Trump, the commitment came only after what he described as "relentless" American and Israeli strikes. Trump's remarks came shortly after Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signalled a willingness to de-escalate tensions, calling neighbouring countries Iran's "brothers" and stating that Tehran had no intention of attacking them. "Iran, which is being beat to hell, has apologised and surrendered to its Middle East neighbours," Trump wrote, adding that Iran was "no longer the bully of the Middle East."

The conflict escalated after joint strikes by the United States and Israel on February 28 reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, triggering missile and drone exchanges across the region. Despite Tehran's conciliatory statement, explosions and air raid sirens continued to be reported in Gulf cities including Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Authorities also briefly suspended operations at Dubai International Airport following what officials described as a "minor incident".

Trump warned that further strikes against Iran were under consideration, saying the country would be "hit very hard" if tensions continued.

Key Developments in the Iran–US–Israel Crisis

FEB 28, 2026
US–Israel strikes target Iran

Death of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei reported

FOLLOWING DAYS
Missile and drone attacks across Gulf region

Air raid sirens in Dubai and Abu Dhabi

MAR 7, 2026
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian apologises to neighbours

Says Iran will not attack unless provoked

TRUMP'S RESPONSE
Claims Iran has "surrendered"

Warns of further military action if tensions persist.

My budget is well within fiscal discipline: CM Siddaramaiah

MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday rejected the BJP's criticism that the state budget was debt-driven and favoured only certain sections, stating that the government has maintained fiscal discipline within legal limits. Siddaramaiah, who also holds the finance portfolio, had presented his record 17th budget in the Karnataka Assembly on Friday with a total outlay of ₹4.48 lakh crore.

Defending the state's borrowing, he said development requires raising funds but must remain within fiscal norms. He pointed out that under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, state debt should remain within 25% of GDP. According to him, Karnataka's debt stands at 24.94% of its Gross Domestic Product, which is within the prescribed limit.

Siddaramaiah also compared Karnataka's fiscal indicators with those of the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the Centre's total debt is about ₹218 lakh crore and alleged that ₹165 lakh crore had been borrowed during the past 11 years. Referring to Karnataka BJP leader R. Ashoka, he questioned whether critics were aware of the Centre's debt levels.

The chief minister said Karnataka's fiscal deficit is 2.95% of GDP, which is within the 3% limit. He noted that the state's GDP is around ₹33.5 lakh crore.

Rejecting claims that the budget benefits only certain communities, Siddaramaiah said it focuses on inclusive development and social justice, covering Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes, minorities, and other groups.

He also argued that changes in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime had reduced the state's revenue by about ₹10,000 crore and said the removal of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act had created additional challenges.

Regarding future budgets, he said the decision rests with the leadership of the Indian National Congress.

LPG prices hiked: Domestic cylinder up Rs 60, commercial by Rs 115

NEW DELHI

Prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders were increased across India on Saturday, with oil marketing companies announcing a hike in both domestic and commercial cylinder rates amid supply concerns. The price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder has been raised by Rs 60, while commercial LPG cylinders have become costlier by Rs 115. The revised prices came into effect from March 7.

Following the increase, a domestic LPG cylinder in the national capital now costs Rs 913, compared to Rs 853 earlier. This marks the second LPG price hike in the past 11 months.

The government recently asked oil marketing companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum to ramp up LPG production after supply disruptions linked to tensions in West Asia.

To maintain adequate domestic supply, authorities also invoked emergency provisions under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, directing refineries across the country to maximise LPG output.

India currently has around 33.08 crore active LPG consumers, making cooking gas one of the most widely used household fuels.

Prices have increased across major cities. In Mumbai, the cost of a domestic cylinder has risen to Rs 912.50 from Rs 852.50 earlier. In Kolkata, the price has increased from Rs 879 to Rs 930, while in Chennai the rate has gone up from Rs 868.50 to Rs 928.50.

Despite the increase in LPG prices, petrol and diesel rates remain unchanged across the country. The last major nationwide reduction came in March 2024 when the government cut both fuels by Rs 2 per litre.

Beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will continue receiving a subsidy of Rs 300 per cylinder for up to 12 refills annually. The scheme currently supports more than 10 crore low-income households.

NITISH KUMAR'S SON NISHANT SET TO BE BIHAR DEPUTY CM

PATNA

Nishant Kumar, son of veteran leader Nitish Kumar, is likely to become the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar after formally entering politics, a senior legislator of the Janata Dal (United) (JD(U)) claimed on Saturday.

JD(U) MLA Hari Narayan Singh said a "unanimous" decision was taken at a legislature party meeting held at the Chief Minister's residence in Patna to appoint Nishant as deputy CM in the new government expected to be formed following Nitish Kumar's resignation.

According to Singh, Nishant, who is in his late 40s, will formally join the JD(U) on Sunday. He is also expected to enter the state legislature through the Legislative Council, with plans for him to be elected as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) in April during the biennial elections to nine seats.

"Since he must be a member of the legislature to hold a constitutional post, Nishant will be elected to the Legislative Council next month," Singh said, adding that the timing of his appointment as deputy CM will be decided by the party leadership.

Nitish Kumar, the longest-serving Chief Minister of Bihar, recently announced his decision to step down and move to the Rajya Sabha, surprising many within his party. The development has triggered speculation that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the largest party in the ruling NDA, may take the chief minister's post in the new arrangement.

Bihar Likely to Get New CM by Early April

PATNA: Nitish Kumar is unlikely to step down immediately as Chief Minister of Bihar even if he is elected to the Rajya Sabha on March 16. Sources in the ruling alliance said the state may get a new Chief Minister by April 5 or 6, when the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) legislature party is expected to meet and elect its leader.

YOUTHQUAKE IN NEPAL

K'taka-Educated Nepali Politician Balendra Shah Defeats Ex-PM KP Sharma Oli in Historic Win

KATHMANDU

Balendra "Balen" Shah, the 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician and former mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, has emphatically defeated four-time prime minister KP Sharma Oli in the Jhapa-5 constituency, marking a significant generational shift in Nepali politics. Representing the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Balen secured victory by a margin of nearly 50,000 votes, underscoring his appeal among younger voters disillusioned with traditional party politics.

Balen first rose to prominence as an independent candidate in the 2022 Kathmandu mayoral elections, winning on a platform of reform, transparency, and urban revitalisation. His tenure as mayor saw ambitious beautification projects and sweeping administrative changes that earned him widespread acclaim.

Despite being considered for the interim prime ministership following the mass protests that toppled the previous coalition government, Balen declined, opting instead to seek a full parliamentary mandate. He subsequently joined the newly formed RSP and was named its prime ministerial candidate.

Born in Kathmandu to a family with roots in Madhesh province, Balen holds a master's in structural engineering from Visvesvaraya Technological University in Karnataka. Alongside his political rise, he remains a cultural figure with a YouTube following approaching one million.

Trade deal gave Indian data to US: Rahul Gandhi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that the Indo-US deal essentially handed over India's data to the United States of America, and nobody, except him, uttered a word about it. The claim by Rahul came while fielding queries on data protection during a dialogue with the Information Technology (IT) Fraternity at Technopark here.

He said that if India had said that its data was the most valuable in the world, there would have been no taxes on agriculture or on small and medium businesses.

Kumaraswamy Slams Karnataka Budget, Flags Rising State Debt

BENGALURU

Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy launched a sharp attack on the Budget presented by Siddaramaiah, alleging that the Indian National Congress government in Karnataka is borrowing heavily without increasing productive investment.

In a media statement, Kumaraswamy said the state budget has risen to ₹4.48 lakh crore while Karnataka's total outstanding debt has surged to ₹8.24 lakh crore, warning that it could cross ₹9 lakh crore next year if the borrowing trend continues.

The Union Minister criticised the rise in borrowing from ₹1.16 lakh crore last year to ₹1.32 lakh crore this year, questioning the lack of proportional growth in capital expenditure. "You are borrowing money, but where is it being spent? Capital investment has remained stagnant for the past three years," he said.

Alleging misuse of public funds, Kumaraswamy claimed that borrowed money was being used to sustain Congress leaders and political appointees.

QUICK READ

DK Shivakumar to leave for Delhi soon after CM presents budget

CH NEWS ,BENGALURU
Following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget presentation, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will undertake a visit to Delhi on Sunday.
DK Shivakumar will inaugurate various development works in Chittapur, Kalaburagi, represented by Priyank Kharge.
After the inauguration, he will travel from Kalaburagi to Delhi with AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge.
It is said that he is going to Delhi for some work in the Irrigation Department.
However, it is quite curious that DKSH is going to Delhi with the AICC president right after the budget presentation.

West Asia conflict, imports of dry fruits hit, prices of spices rise

BENGALURU
The conflict in West Asia has also affected the transportation of dry fruits, dates and spices.
This has led to a fluctuation in the import of dry fruits from Iran to Bengaluru, leading to an increase in prices.
The joint US-Israeli attack on Iran and Iran's counter-attack on US allies in the Gulf countries have led to tensions in the Gulf countries and West Asia. India's imports of dried fruits and dates from there have been disrupted. Dates and dry fruits, which are in high demand during Ramadan, are imported from Gulf countries including Iran. We now have enough stock for 15 to 20 days. Dates, dry fruits and spices are imported to India through Iran's Abbas port. There is no activity going on there now, said Mohammed Idris Chaudhary, President of Cantonment Fruits and Dry Fruits Merchants' Association.

Accident near Anekal, two seriously injured

CH NEWS,BENGALURU
Two persons were seriously injured in a road accident near Alliance College near Anekal on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Saturday.
The car was taking a U-turn and was hit by another car coming from Chandapur. A car overturned on the road due to the collision. Another car hit a divider.
The cars were crushed by the severity of the accident and the injured were admitted to the hospital. Anekal police visited the spot and conducted an inquiry into the incident.

Cybercrime is not limited to any geographical area: HM

Karnataka is not just a state. It is a global brand. When the world looks at Bengaluru, it will see the future of innovation. .

BENGALURU

Karnataka has the most secure digital system in the world, said Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar. He was speaking while inaugurating the 3rd annual Cyber Crime Investigation Summit 'CIDECODE' organized by the CID and Cyber Crime Investigation Training and Research Centre at a private hotel in the city.

The Karnataka government has taken stringent measures to curb cyber crimes by setting up specialized cyber crime units with the necessary skills, training and technology to investigate cyber attacks and collect digital evidence. A total of 43 CEN police stations have been set up in all districts and major cities of Karnataka. He said that our government is committed to providing cyber security to our citizens.

He said that our government has created a conducive environment for the ecosystem of cyber security startups, with diverse companies specializing in various sectors such as artificial intelligence, cyber security, cloud computing, cyber security compliance and risk management.

It is a collaborative and good effort to continuously collaborate and undertake initiatives with the private sector and international organizations to provide greater digital security to citizens. Such interactions of experience and expertise will be helpful in addressing the rapidly changing cyber threat landscape. He opined that darkweb activities, cryptocurrency tracking, financial fraud prevention, strengthening digital forensic laboratories are more relevant and timely.

The establishment of CCITR in the state has greatly contributed to strengthening cyber crime investigation, enhancing research capacity and equipping our police officers with advanced technical skills. He said that the research publications and capacity building initiatives emerging from this center are making a meaningful contribution to the cyber policing system.

He said that the Cyber Crime Investigation Training and Research Centre has trained more than 62,000 people, including state police officers and personnel and members of various state and central agencies.

Cyber crime is not limited to any geographical area. It is a borderless, technology-based and constantly evolving crime. From financial frauds and crypto currency, to dark web-based drug networks and data breaches, the scale of threats is increasing rapidly. He said that these challenges need to be addressed not only with technical capabilities but also organizationally by strengthening laws.

Budget, Pressing AI accelerator to boost farming, education

CH NEWS BENGALURU

Seeking to strengthen Karnataka's position as the country's leading technological hub by leveraging the burgeoning wave of Artificial Intelligence (AI), chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveiled a series of new initiatives aimed at accelerating the adoption of AI across sectors.

From AI-powered support systems for farmers and personalised digital tutors for students to new research centres and robotics hubs, the state government is expanding its AI ecosystem while aiming to make the technology accessible beyond Bengaluru. Planning to adopt AI to reach out to farmers at the grassroots level, the govt announced that the existing 'Raitha Kare Kendra' (farmer service centre) will be upgraded using AI tech.

The upgraded call centres will provide farmers with quick and reliable information on a range of agricultural inputs, including weather forecasts, market prices, farming technologies and govt schemes, all available through a single digital platform designed to improve accessibility and responsiveness. Further, in a bid to make learning a more engaging and enjoyable experience for school students, the CM announced the introduction of AI-driven learning tools across schools in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Dharwad.

According to officials from the IT and BT department, the collaboration will help develop a personalised self-learning digital tutor powered by AI, giving students the feeling of having a personal tutor by their side and helping improve learning outcomes. Costing about Rs 5 crore, the project is expected to benefit nearly 12.3 lakh students from classes 8 to 12, and is likely to help them solve tricky mathematics problems, simplify complex science concepts, and better understand difficult lessons through customised digital assistance. With the aim of strengthening the AI research and innovation ecosystem in the state, the government also proposed the setting up of the Bangalore Robotics and AI Innovation Zone (BRAINz) at the AI and Robotics Technology Park (ART-PARK) under the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), in collaboration with Isro and the state-owned Keonics.

CM criticizes Modi over LPG price hike, demands resignation

CH NEWS BENGALURU

Chief MinisterSiddaramaiah has lashed out at the central government, saying that Modi, who is tarnishing the country's reputation globally, should resign.

Sharing on his X account, he said that the increase in LPG prices will be costly for middle-class families. This increase is not an inevitable measure. India's poor and middle-class families are suffering from inflation and price hikes. At this time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has expressed anger that the increase in LPG cylinder prices is like a kick to the ground.

The increase in the price of domestic cylinders by about Rs 60 will make the cost of living of poor and middle class families more expensive. This increase is not an inevitable step, it is the result of a foreign policy that mistakenly considered surrender as the country's strategy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that by nodding his head in silence to America, India's strategic independence has been placed at the feet of another country.

He has ruined India's long-standing energy partnerships with countries like Russia and Iran. The Prime Minister seems to have forgotten that these are countries that have ensured energy security for Indians for decades. According to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Foreign policy is a consequence of economic policy. Nehru's warning, given seven or eight decades ago, has come true literally today.

When diplomacy becomes a spectacle rather than a strategy, the poor and the middle class inevitably suffer. In his recent book, former Army Chief General MM Naravane raised serious concerns about the lack of institutional consultation and strategic understanding in India's foreign policy decisions. He said this confirms the suspicion that the Prime Minister lacks a fundamental understanding of diplomatic posture and its economic implications.

India's current foreign policy failure shows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fear of the Epstein files and his ignorance in diplomatic decisions. Let the Prime Minister explain why crores of Indians should pay the price for his diplomatic failure. Modi, who is tarnishing the country's reputation globally, should publicly apologize to the people of the country and resign, he has been asked.

56-Year-Old Woman Rescued After Falling Into 25-Foot Pit During Morning Walk

CH NEWS BENGALURU

A shocking incident was reported in Bengaluru where a 56-year-old woman accidentally fell into a deep pit while she had gone out for a walk. The incident took place yesterday in the Chandralayout area of the city, close to Nagarbhavi Park.

The woman, identified as Sudha Parimala, had stepped out of her house in the morning for her usual walk. However, when she did not return home even by night, her family members began to worry.

HC orders notification to increase Kappathagudda Wildlife Sanctuary

CH NEWS BENGALURU

The High Court has directed the state government to issue a fresh notification increasing the area of the Kappattagudda Wildlife Sanctuary to 300 square kilometers, as per the resolution passed in the 11th meeting of the Karnataka State Wildlife Board (KSWB) in January 2019. A bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha dismissed the petition and passed this order while hearing petitions filed by Sivaganga Stone Crushing Industries and others, which were carrying out crushing on patta land in the ecologically sensitive zone of the forest, challenging the declaration of 244.15 square kilometers of the Kappattugudda forest as a sensitive area. Also, the KSWB has unanimously decided to declare the entire 300 sq km of Kappathagudda as a wildlife sanctuary. However, in the notification issued on May 16, 2019, only 244.15 sq km of the area has been declared as a wildlife sanctuary.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Geo-Fencing Based
mVahan Fitness Mobile Application
Implemented in 66 RTO Offices in Karnataka

1. To avoid discrepancies in issuing Fitness Certificates for Commercial (Transport) Vehicles, registered in the State of Karnataka the Transport Department has implemented a Geo-Fencing based mVahan Fitness Mobile Application in all 66 RTO offices across Karnataka
2. The objective of the mVahan Fitness Mobile Application is to bring greater transparency and accountability in the vehicle fitness certification process across all RTO offices in the State and this initiative will increase the confidence of vehicle owners and the general public
3. The new system is introduced in order to eliminate all probable loopholes and to ensure Fitness Certificates issued only after proper inspection of vehicles
4. In Karnataka, there are more than 30 lakh registered commercial (transport) vehicles and frequent complaints were received regarding lack of unified & transparency system in issue of Fitness Certificates.
5. In this regard, new mVahan Fitness Mobile Application developed by NIC has been implemented
6. With the aid of this application, Geo-Fencing technology ensures that vehicles are inspected only at designated inspection locations of the respective RTO offices
7. Vehicle inspection will take place as per the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act and Rules framed there under, only after the vehicle physically enters the designated inspection location.
8. During the inspection process, six photographs of the vehicle will be mandatorily captured and only after verification in the application, Vehicle Fitness Certificate will be issued
9. Apart from the designated inspection locations, there will be no provision to issue Fitness Certificates elsewhere
10. Registering Authorities have been instructed to conduct re-inspection of at least 20% of the vehicles that apply for fitness certificates.
11. The mVahan Fitness Mobile Application has been implemented in some states in the country and is currently being implemented in the State of Karnataka.
12. This system will help in reducing road accidents and enhance overall road safety.
13. The long-standing concerns and complaints regarding the vehicle fitness certification system will be effectively addressed through this initiative

Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department
Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Participating in the Department's Event

Sd/-
Commissioner
Transport & Road Safety

HONOUR FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Graduation parade of technical officers held in city

CH NEWS BENGALURU

The spectacular ceremonial Passing-Out-Parade (POP) of 106 Aeronautical Engineering Course (AEC) was held at Air Force Technical College (AFTC) on Saturday, in the august presence of dignitaries, officials, air warriors, parents and air veterans. The parade embodied the successful culmination of 62 weeks of rigorous training of 106 AEC. A total of 108 Engineering Officers including 9 officers from Friendly Foreign Countries passed out from the College with flying colours.

Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia, Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance, Air Headquarters and Commodore Commandant AFTC graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Reviewing Officer (RO) of the graduation parade. On arrival, the Reviewing Officer was received by Air Commodore K Giri, Commandant of the College. The parade was marked by a spectacular flypast and mesmerizing sky diving demonstration by 'Air Devils' team of Indian Air Force. The 'Air Warrior Drill Team (AWDT) presented an entrancing performance for the audience. The RO awarded trophies and medallions to the officers who excelled in the course. The prestigious 'Sword of Honour' for first in order of merit was awarded to Flying Officer Chandra Chud Rai and the 'President's Plaque' for the best officer in professional subjects and General Service Training was awarded to Flying Officer Amartya Singh. The 'Chief of Air Staff Medals' for being first in the order of merit in Electronics and Mechanical Streams were awarded to Flying Officer Prashant Pandey and Flying Officer Ingavale Rushikesh Jagannath respectively. The Air Marshal addressed the gathering and congratulated the graduating officers. He emphasized that Engineering

THE GREAT INDIAN TRAVERSE

22 Days, 3,700 Kilometers, and a Lifetime of Stories

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

When 11 cyclists from Mysuru stood at the starting line in Srinagar's Lal Chowk a few months ago, they weren't just looking at a map; they were looking at the soul of a nation. Led by Vinay Singh, the veteran head of Royal Riders Mysuru, the group consisted of five women and six men, most of whom had already seen five decades of life. Their goal was simple yet audacious: to pedal from the northern crown of India to its southern tip in Kanyakumari in just over three weeks.

The Psychology of the Start: Srinagar to Pathankot

The journey began with a profound lesson in Kashmiri hospitality. Despite the political and social complexities often portrayed in the media, the cyclists found a "Beautiful" local populace. In Srinagar, residents—many from the non-Hindu community—approached the riders not with curiosity, but with open arms and invitations for breakfast.

"They would force us to come into their homes," Veena Ashok, noting that locals even refused payment for tea as a mark of respect for the team's ambition. This early encouragement was vital, as the physical toll began almost immediately. The CRPF provided a protective convoy, guiding the 11 cyclists and their three support vehicles through the "disastrous" road conditions caused by recent rains.

The 3:15 AM Ritual: Discipline as a Survival Tactic

To reach Kanyakumari, there was no room for lethargy. The team lived by a clock that began in the dead of night:

03:15 AM: The wake-up call in darkness.

04:15 AM: Luggage was loaded, and a high-protein breakfast was consumed.

04:40 AM: Following a group prayer, the wheels hit the pavement.

Veena Ashok told City Hilights that this schedule was a strategic response to the brutal Indian sun. By 8:30 AM, even in late September, temperatures in regions like Pathankot and Lucknow were already soaring. The riders aimed to finish their primary "push" of 180 to 220 kilometers before the mid-day heat became life-threatening.

The Invisible Support System: Chef Somman and the Five-Meal Rule

A 3,700-kilometer ride is fueled by more than just willpower; it is fueled by calories. The team's secret weapon was Chef Somman, a specialist from Manali who has supported the Royal Riders since 2016. Managing a traveling kitchen for 11 elite athletes is a logistical feat. The group followed a "Five Meals a Day" rule to combat the 6,000+ calories burned daily. While the menu was strictly vegetarian—focusing on paneer, sprouts, and curd—the team allowed for eggs as a non-negotiable protein source. Once the group hit the borders of Hyderabad, the "Chef's food" was temporarily sidelined as the riders surrendered to the allure of authentic idlis and dosas at roadside tiffin centers.

The "Treacherous" Middle: Dehydration and Dust

As the team pedaled through the heart of India—Lucknow, Delhi, Agra, and Nagpur—the "Autumn" expedition felt more like a mid-summer survival trial. Dehydration was the primary enemy. Each rider consumed between 6 and 7 liters of fluids daily.

The roads offered no respite. Huge sections of the National Highway (NH-44) were under reconstruction. "The road was dug up everywhere," Veena shared, describing the vibration through the handlebars as "horrible". In Maharashtra, while the 60-kilometer forest stretches were beautifully managed with barricades to protect wildlife, the lack of dedicated cycling tracks elsewhere led to high-stress encounters with speeding trucks and tractors.

The Mechanical Miracle

Perhaps the most surprising detail of the entire 22-day trek was the reliability of their gear. Riding high-performance road bikes with specialized gears, the team had replaced all tires 20 days prior to departure. Despite the gravel of Srinagar and the heat of Central India, the team did not experience a single major mechanical failure or flat tire during the entire 3,700 kilometers—a statistic that defies the odds of Indian road conditions.

Training: The Five-Month Foundation

This wasn't a "vacation on wheels"; it was the culmination of five months of grueling preparation in Mysuru. The training was a ladder of endurance: Month 1: Base building at 800 km/month. Month 2: Increasing intensity to 1,200 km/month. Month 3: The peak at 1,700 km/month.

The team practiced on diverse gradients, from the coastal winds of Dhanushkodi to the steep elevations of Ooty and Madikeri, ensuring that by the time they reached the hills of Jammu, their legs were ready.

The Final Sprint to the Tip

The atmosphere shifted as the team crossed into Karnataka. In Bengaluru, they were met with a hero's welcome at Vidhana Soudha, where local cycling communities joined them for photos and a celebratory meal. The final leg through Salem to Kanyakumari was a blur of emotion and muscle fatigue.

By the time they reached the confluence of the three seas, the riders had undergone a physical transformation. Most had lost 3 to 4 kilograms of body weight, largely muscle mass sacrificed to the relentless cardio of the road. Yet, the "Stamina" remained unshaken.

Conclusion: The Next Horizon

As they looked back at the 3,700 kilometers they had conquered, the conversation quickly turned to the future. While they had crossed the length of the country, they realized they had yet to fully explore their own backyard. Their next planned expedition? A 3,650-kilometer "All-Karnataka" tour, visiting every district in their home state to celebrate the land that raised them. For the Royal Riders of Mysuru, the road doesn't end at Kanyakumari; it simply circles back to the next beginning.

Expedition team

Vinay Singh
Likmaram
Harish Raman
Jithendra Kumar
Dr. Suman Byregowda
Sandeep Sagar
Chandana Jithendra
Veena Ashok
Anita Bargi
Pooja Harish
Brinda Godhi

K2K Cycling Expedation : Total no of cycling 22 days

Total cyclists : 11 no (5 ladies + 6 Men)
Total distance: 3,700 km
Covered NH 44 road
Started from : Lal Chowk (Srinagar)
Ended @ Kanyakumari TN.
Cities covered : Srinagar, Pathankot, Lucknow, Delhi, Agra, Mathura, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Salem, Kanyakumari.
Support vehicles : 2 no
Kitchen staff & crew members = 7 members.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Thriving Women in Medicine: Balancing Career and Home with Confidence

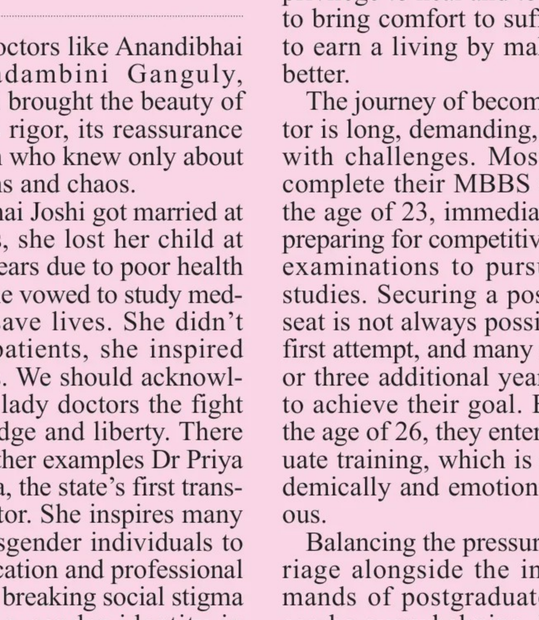
MYSURU

The lady doctors like Anandibhai Joshi, Kadambini Ganguly, Rukhmabai brought the beauty of science -its rigor, its reassurance – to women who knew only about superstitions and chaos.

Anandibhai Joshi got married at age of 9yrs, she lost her child at age of 14 years due to poor health care then she vowed to study medicine and save lives. She didn't just treat patients, she inspired generations. We should acknowledge these lady doctors the fight for knowledge and liberty. There are many other examples Dr Priya from Kerala, the state's first transgender doctor. She inspires many young transgender individuals to pursue education and professional careers and breaking social stigma surrounding gender identity in conservative spaces

Indian women are best homemakers, decorators and burdened with religious belief. They are expected to be productive like a machine at work. and nurturing like a saint at home, shared load and real support.

Work life balance is a hard thing to maintain for everyone, but it is even more difficult for female doctors. Most important thing is prioritizing mental health. Acing in life but still not having good mental health will take away your joy. Balancing academic work, long consultations, hospital work, and patients who have been suffering carries real cognitive and emotional load. Caring deeply takes energy. and sometimes, it takes a toll. Violence, mistrust, lack of security, long hours, poor work-life balance we face it all. But even in the middle of all this, it is still a privilege to heal and to serve and to bring comfort to suffering and to earn a living by making lives better.



The journey of becoming a doctor is long, demanding, and filled with challenges. Most of them complete their MBBS degree by the age of 23, immediately begin preparing for competitive entrance examinations to pursue higher studies. Securing a postgraduate seat is not always possible on the first attempt, and many spend two or three additional years striving to achieve their goal. By around the age of 26, they enter postgraduate training, which is itself academically and emotionally rigorous.

Balancing the pressures of marriage alongside the intense demands of postgraduate training can be overwhelming. Managing academic responsibilities, hospital duties, and the responsibilities of a new family often adds significant stress.

By the age of 30, many women doctors may also be navigating pregnancy and motherhood. Caring for young children while coping with limited childcare leave and a demanding medical career makes the situation even more stressful. It becomes a delicate balancing act between professional dedication and personal responsibilities.

Waking up fragmented -after nights broken by feeding, crying and still expected to show up polished, sharp and composed. She feels guilty for leaving her toddlers at day care for long hours. Women in medicine deserve life partners who are patient, kind, compassionate and accommodating enough to be the corner of comfort for them amidst all the chaos, and breakdowns that their profession brings along with every other hurdle that they as a woman must face.

Balance is a state of stability between different aspects of life (work, rest, relationships, self-care) that supports overall wellbeing. Following are the few tips for female doctors for effective work life balance.

• Sometimes, it's okay to go slow in career. Careers don't have one finish line.
• Power doesn't always mean speaking louder sometimes; it's choosing silence to protect your peace
• Guard your time as fiercely as your productivity
• Set tech free – no work e-mails after working hours
• Give importance to fitness and exercise
• Travelling, outdoor activities and creative pursuits
• Spend time in nature and meaningful connections
• Do one grounding activity-walk, cooking, painting, Gardening, dance and music
• Don't compromise on your sleep and workout at any cost.
• Time management is a skill and women master it everyday
• Creating a life aligned career by defining non negotiables and protecting your energy by working smarter

More than money, women need the freedom to chase their dreams Live a little for yourself, you are a human first, before being a doctor, daughter sister, wife or mother. Thriving is not about perfect balance, but about resilience, adaptability, and self-belief. Women who balance career and home succeed by setting priorities, embracing support, and defining success on their own terms.

Empowerment of women leads to development of a good family, good society and ultimately a good nation.

- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

By
Dr Vidya CS MBBS MD PhD
Professor of Anatomy
JSS Medical College
Mysore

Women's Day celebrated at RUDSETI

MYSURU

Five successful women entrepreneurs who had received training from the institute and achieved success in various fields were honoured and felicitated at the premises of RUDSET Institute on the occasion of International Women's Day celebrations here on Saturday.

On the same occasion, the valedictory programme of the NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission) sponsored Assistant Book Keeper/Computer Tally training programme (38-day duration) was also conducted. The chief guest of the programme was Shruthi, Assistant Professor, Maharani's Women's College, Mysuru.

Addressing the trainees at the event, Shruti said that the day being celebrated is International Women's Day, a significant occasion dedicated to women's strength, achievements, and the pursuit of equal rights. A woman is not merely a word but a symbol of strength, patience, and inspiration. As a mother who builds families, as a teacher who shapes society, and as a leader who leads the nation forward, women have proved their capabilities in every field. Every woman possesses immense inner strength.

She also advised the computer tally students to improve their technical skills in the modern digital field, develop professional competence, and move forward with responsibility in their careers.

Presiding over the programme, Sarita K.S., Director of the RUDSET Institute, said that in the modern era women are actively participating in all fields and have demonstrated their strength and leadership. When women progress, families progress, society progresses, and the nation progresses. Therefore, everyone must take a pledge to respect, support, and encourage women to achieve their dreams. If women are empowered, the nation itself becomes stronger.

She also emphasized that in order to achieve success in life, developing professional skills is essential, and encouraged the trainees to enhance their vocational expertise.

On the occasion, the Successful Women Entrepreneur Honour was conferred on the following: Likitha, Organic Oyster Mushroom Farm, Mysuru, Shruthi, Smrutikas Craft House, Mysuru, Vanaja, S.V. Jookatan, Mysuru, Anita, Sowmya Boutique, Gungural Chathra, Rani and Sai Kuteera PG Centre, Mysuru.

At the programme, Lathamani, lecturer of the institute, welcomed the guests. Trainee Poornima compered the programme and trainee Sunitha delivered the vote of thanks.

A total of 40 trainees along with the institute staff were present at the event.

NCC cadets take part in Swachh Bharat abhiyan

MYSURU

As many as 116 cadets from schools and colleges across Mysore, Chamarajnagar, and Mandya distt affiliated with 13 Karnataka Battalion NCC/ Gp HQ Mysore participated in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on Friday, under aegis of Group HQ NCC Mysuru and Mysuru City Corporation. The Cadets enthusiastically took part in cleaning activities near the new war memorial being constructed at old DC office.

13 Karnataka Battallion Commanding Officcer Lt Col Sanjeev Kodathe, Subedar Major Manoj, Permanent instructor staff of 13 Karnataka Bn NCC, Dr Geeta Kodathe, President, Janani Shaurya Soumya foundation, ANO Lt Ravi TS, ANO Venkatesh S along with cadets from different institutes also participated during the cleanliness campaign.

A total of 12 bags weighing approximately 40-50 Kg of waste papers, plastic, used paper glasses and bottles were collected and disposed of.

It was a huge successful drive with the objective of creating awareness among the public, emphasising cleanliness in Mysuru making it a beautiful and model City.

BULLDOZING HERITAGE

Gandhians decry 'destructive' ₹40 Crore makeover of Historic Badanavalu Khadi Center

MYSURU

What was intended to be a Rs 40 crore rupee "development" package for the historic Badanavalu Khadi Gramodyoga has instead sparked a fierce standoff between Gandhian activists and government officials.

On Saturday, prominent activist Prasanna addressed a press conference, accusing the state of sacrificing the center's soul for "contractor-driven" infrastructure.

The primary catalyst for the protest was the overnight felling of several decades-old trees to make way for a new compound wall. Activists claim the work, carried out under the cover of darkness with JCBs, damaged the root systems of the remaining greenery and dismantled a simple fence that had stood for over a century. "This is a sacred, traditional space," Prasanna stated during the briefing.

He argued that the 25 lakh rupee allocation for a concrete wall is a waste of public funds when the center's human element is suffering. While the government pours millions into construction, nearly 40 women weavers at the center have reportedly not received their salaries for three months.

The plague of 'Fake Khadi'

Beyond the physical destruction of the site, activists raised an alarm regarding the "commodification" of Khadi. The group accused the Textile Department of flooding the market with "Powerloom Khadi" and synthetic blends, which they labeled as Kalla Maalu (stolen or fake goods). "True Khadi is like cold-pressed oil—it has a specific value because of the labor and purity involved". By selling machine-made fabric under the Khadi label, he argued that the government is deceiving consumers and stripping away the livelihoods of rural artisans who cannot compete with industrial speeds.

A Vision for Restoration

The activists aren't just protesting; they are demanding a shift in strategy. Key proposals presented during the press conference include: The 'Khadi Station' Initiative: A formal request has been sent to the Central Railway Ministry to rename the nearby Narasambudhi Railway Station to "Khadi Station." The goal is to turn the region into a global heritage hub for tourists interested in the Gandhian way of life.

Implementation of the 'Restoration Report': The activists urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to ignore "contractor-heavy" plans and instead adopt a detailed report submitted by the activists, which focuses on sustainable, village-centric growth.

Technological Certification: A call for the government to use existing technology to test and certify "Pure Khadi" to protect traditional handloom weavers from powerloom imitations.

The Threat of Satyagraha

The atmosphere at Badanavalu remains tense as the Khadi Board reportedly continues its construction work. While local officials claim the improvements are necessary for the center's modernization, the activists remain unmoved. "If the government continues to prioritize buildings over the people and trees of this center, we will be forced to launch a non-violent Satyagraha," Prasanna warned. For now, the looms of Badanavalu remain quiet, overshadowed by the sound of construction and the growing calls for a return to Gandhian basics.

MLA T.S. Srivatsa Wishes for India to win the T20 WC

MYSURU

Krishnaraja Assembly Constituency MLA T.S. Srivatsa expressed his wishes for India to perform well and emerge victorious against New Zealand in the T20 World Cup final scheduled for Sunday.

He said that the hopes and prayers of millions of fans should bear fruit and that Goddess Chamundeshwari should bless the players of the Indian cricket team.

At the Maruleshwara Playground located in K.G. Koppal in the city, he symbolically swung a cricket bat and held the Indian national flag, wishing for India's victory in the T20 World Cup final. Cricket lovers gathered there also cheered enthusiastically, chanting: "Let India win, let India win, let India win!"

They expressed confidence that "This time, the cup will be ours." On this occasion, former MLA L. Nagendra, former Mayor Shivakumar, Mysuru City BJP Yuva Morcha President Rakesh Gowda, Gopal Raj Urs, Jogi Manju, H.G. Giridhar, Pradeep Kumar, Kannada activist Ramegowda, Chetan, Lohith, Hemanth, Keerthi, Kishore, Suresh Gold, and others were present.

Lineman's Day Celebrated at CESC

MYSURU

Staff safety and alertness are extremely important to ensure continuous and quality power supply to consumers, said CESC Chairman and MLA Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda.

Speaking after inaugurating the Lineman's Day program organized on Saturday by Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC) at the Operations and Maintenance Division office here on Saturday, he said that work in the organization is carried out with mutual trust and confidence between the institution and its staff, and everyone has the responsibility to provide better service to consumers. Therefore, employees working in the power sector must perform their duties with greater caution to prevent any accidents. In this regard, steps have been taken to maintain all feeders from the perspective of reducing electrical accidents and ensuring the safety of linemen. If safety measures are strictly followed, electrical accidents can be prevented.

> **If electrical accidents occur due to a mistake or hasty decision by us, it will not only cause great loss to the staff member's family but will also become a blot on the institution. Therefore, linemen must work responsibly while keeping in mind their own safety, as well as the welfare of their family and the institution.**
>
> —Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda, MLA and Chairman, CESC

Staff and public safety are important

CESC Managing Director K.M. Munigopal Raju said that Safety Week is being observed by CESC from March 4 to 10. Not only the safety of employees but also the safety of the public is extremely important, and everyone must work with greater caution to prevent electrical accidents. Linemen working under the CESC jurisdiction must visit places where there is a possibility of danger, inspect problems and take responsibility for resolving them. Safety is extremely important and everyone should pay greater attention to it while carrying out their duties.

Superintending Engineer Sunil Kumar explained the significance of Lineman's Day.

On the occasion, more than 10 linemen who had performed their duties efficiently, supplied quality electricity to consumers and enhanced the credibility of CESC were honoured with certificates of appreciation.

Technical Director of CESC D.J. Divakar, Executive Engineer of V.V. Mohalla Division D. Sandeep, Vice-President of the Karnataka Electricity Transmission Employees Association H.V. Sandeep, along with other officials and linemen were present at the event.

Meaningful Service on 2nd Anniversary of Kalike Sankalpa

MYSURU

With the noble ambition of bringing positive change in society through education, Kalike Education Trust, which has been serving for the past two years, organised the "Kalike Sankalpa" programme, as part of its second anniversary celebrations at the Trust premises in Vijayanagar Fourth Stage, First Phase in the city.

As part of this event, free school bags and books were distributed to economically underprivileged students. By providing essential bags and books to more than 100 students, the Trust once again demonstrated its commitment to social service. Notably, the beneficiaries were carefully identified and selected based on genuine need.

The programme was inaugurated by Chamundeshwari Assembly Constituency MLA G.T. Devegowda. Retired Senior Manager of Karnataka Grameena Bank, Mysuru, B.L. Ramegowda, Vijayanagar Manju, JDS youth leader and team members were also present. Special guests included former Mysuru–Kodagu Member of Parliament Pratap Simha, Mysuru entrepreneur Ningaraju N. Belathur, entrepreneur Rangaraju, V.P. Sushila, State President of the Karnataka Human Rights Protection Committee, Siddappa, State Vice-President, P. Mahadeva, former Vice-President of Hootagalli Gram Panchayat, and Dr. Manjunath V., Associate Professor. They distributed school bags and books to the students.

On the occasion, five-year-old child prodigy Yukta Shaiv was felicitated for achieving recognition in the Kalam's World Records and the Jaxi Book of World Records.

The guests appreciated the efforts and working style of the Trust founders Madakarinayaka and Amulya Madakarinayaka, stating that their service to underprivileged children in the field of education within just two years is commendable. They expressed hope that such initiatives that strengthen the importance of education in society would expand further in the coming years.

The joyful smiles of the students during the programme touched the hearts of everyone present. The event, which conveyed the message that education is empowerment, witnessed enthusiastic participation from parents and local residents.

Police constables are the backbone of department: Seema Latkar

MYSURU

Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar stated that constables are the backbone of the police department. She spoke as the chief guest at the passing-out parade of the 10th batch of Women Civil Police Constable trainees, organized at the parade ground of the Police Training School in Mysuru. She appreciated the trainees for their excellent performance in the parade.

She said that ten months ago the trainees had arrived individually, but now they have become part of the police family, adding that constables are the backbone of the department.

She encouraged the trainees by saying that women wearing the police uniform will face many challenges, and they must also be ready for sacrifices. However, she emphasized that the patience and motivational strength that women possess is unmatched.

Working in the Karnataka Police Department is a matter of pride and dignity, she said, adding that there is something new to learn every day in the department.

She advised the trainees to understand the changing nature of crime, noting that cases today are no longer limited to traditional crimes and that cybercrime is increasing, so they must gain awareness about it.

She further said that women possess unique confidence and inner strength, and that they are capable of achieving anything. She urged them to involve themselves in every section of the police station and not to be disturbed by what others may say.

She also mentioned that the department has introduced people-friendly initiatives such as "Jan Snehi Police" and "Asare", which focus on working closely with the public. She wished the trainees success and encouraged them to work well and bring pride to the department.

Spandana honours Dr. Praveen Kulkarni in the city

MYSURU

Spandana, a Mysuru-based organization, felicitated Dr Praveen Kulkarni, former Deputy Principal of JSS Medical College, who has recently been selected as Scientist-E at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Gurubasavaraj of Rajiv Gandhi University welcomed the gathering and briefed the audience about the achievements and professional journey of Dr. Praveen Kulkarni. Dr. K.R. Kumaraswamy read out the felicitation citation. Subsequently, Dr. Lakshminarayana, Dr. Gurubasavaraj and M. Raju jointly honoured Dr. Praveen Kulkarni.

On the occasion, Dr. Kulkarni's mother, Mrs. Geetha, and his wife, Dr. Rajani, were also honoured.

Speaking at the event, Spandana President M. Jayashankar highlighted that at a relatively young age, Dr. Kulkarni has produced 186 research publications over 13 years. He has served as Principal Investigator for the Covishield and Covaxin projects, guided MD and MPH students, and successfully led several research projects. He noted that Dr. Kulkarni's dedication and hard work had rightfully earned him this recognition.

On behalf of the medical fraternity, Dr. Sudhakar and Dr. Venkatesh spoke and congratulated Dr. Kulkarni, praising his outstanding academic achievements.

In his response after receiving the honour, Dr. Praveen Kulkarni stated that his selection as Scientist-E at ICMR was possible due to the blessings of the revered Swamiji of the JSS institution and the encouragement and support provided by the institution. He also expressed his appreciation for the encouragement he received at JSS Medical College, particularly from Dr. H. Basavana Gowdappa, Dr. B. Manjunath, M. Jayashankar, Dr. Suma and Dr. N.C. Ashok.

Among those present were Dr. Lakshminarayana, Dr. S.M. Prabhulingaswamy, Dr. Gurubasavaraj, Dr. K.R. Kumaraswamy, Dr. S. Sundar Rajan, Dr. Sudhakar, Dr. Shivaprakash, Dr. Venkatesh, along with M. Raju, Gangadhar, Mahesh, Lakshman, Lokesh, Mahadeva Kumar and Gowrishankar, besides several invited guests. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Arun.

Grahak Panchayat holds women's seminar

MYSURU

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Mysuru unit of Akhil Bharatiya Grahak Panchayat organized an Enlightened Women's Seminar on the theme "Role of Women in Advertisements" at the Vanavasi Kalyan Prant Office in Chamundipuram, Mysuru on Saturday.

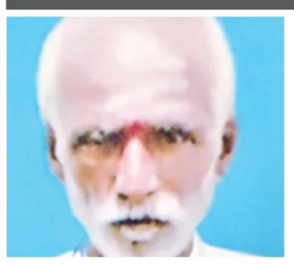
Dr. Jyothi Shankar, Professor at Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) inaugurated the event.

The seminar mainly focused on the topic "The role of women in advertisements, their identity and dignity, and the impact it has on society." The discussion highlighted how women are portrayed in advertisements seen in newspapers as well as on social media and examined their broader social implications.

The Enlightened Women's Seminar was presided over by Dr. Jyothi Shankar, Professor at KSOU and education expert.

The guest speakers included Dr. Balu Kenchappa, retired RBI officer; Dr. Chandrika Kurundwad, Principal of Nandimath Law College, Bagalkot; Vikram Iyengar, Vice-President of Mysuru City unit; Srikantesh, Secretary; former city corporation member Kamalamma; Gayatri Nadig; Pushpa, legal advisor of ABGP; and several others who participated in the event.

QUICK READ



Public help sought to trace missing senior citizen

Chitradurga

Holalkere Police have registered a case after 80-year-old Gowdappa, from Kamasamudra village, went missing. He is about 5 feet tall, with a round face, medium build, reddish complexion, and a white bushy beard. At the time, he wore a white full-sleeved shirt, white panche, and blue towel, and speaks Kannada. The police and local authorities are urging anyone with information to come forward immediately. People can contact Holalkere Police (08191-275233), Circle Inspector (08191-275376), DSP Office (08194-222430), or District Control Room (08194-222782) to report sightings.

Chikkaballapur launches program to promote Khadi

Chikkaballapur

To raise awareness about Khadi products, Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu inaugurated a temporary Khadi store at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday. The initiative encourages government employees to wear Khadi clothes on the first Saturday of every month and during national festivals. The program aims to respect indigenous products, strengthen national sentiment, support rural economy, and provide livelihood to Khadi weavers. The Khadi festival was celebrated with displays of Khadi products and participation from officials, including Municipal Commissioner Mansoor Ali Khan, District Khadi and Village Employment Officer K. Naresh, District Information Officer M. Junjanna, and staff from various departments.

Leaders stress harmony at historic Madahalli math event

Devotees and leaders attended Madahalli's Kanthe Math event, celebrating Sri Gurubudiswami's 397th worship and inaugurating renovated math facilities

HUNSUR

A large gathering of devotees and leaders attended a religious programme at the historic Madahalli where the Kanthe Math organised a special event to mark the 397th worship ceremony of Sri Gurubudiswami.

The programme was held in the presence of several spiritual leaders and public representatives. The event also included the inauguration of a new building of the math, the renovated hall of Sri Siddalinga Swami and the Basavadwara entrance.

Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy said that religious institutions have played a major role in shaping society. He said maths have helped educate people, support the poor and guide communities with values of love, faith and unity.

He noted that many maths across the state run educational institutions and social programmes. At the Madahalli math, around 200 children are receiving education and guidance, he said. Kumaraswamy also spoke about social values, urging people to respect parents and elders and follow the principles of harmony taught in Indian culture. He said society must move forward while preserving moral values.

Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar said the country has a long tradition of guru and math heritage. She added that such institutions have been serving society for centuries by supporting education, culture and social welfare.

MLA G. T. Harish Gowda said the Kanthe Math of Madahalli has a long and respected history in the region and continues to guide people through spiritual teachings and community service.

Several swamijis, elected representatives and community leaders also attended the programme and called for building a society based on equality, unity and human values.

Farmers demand Bhadra Project funds after protest

CHITRADURGA

Leaders of various organisations demanded immediate funds for the Bhadra Upper River Project and support for an ailing farmer leader during a meeting held at the Tourist Mandir in Chitradurga.

Speaking at the gathering, Basavanagideva Swamiji criticised the authorities for ignoring the hunger strike led by farmers' leader K. T. Thippeswamy. Thippeswamy had been on an indefinite fast since March 2 at Onake Obavva Circle demanding funds for the Bhadra Upper River Project. After fasting for five days, he reportedly fell ill and was admitted to a hospital.

Swamiji said the district administration should have convinced the protestors in the early stages. He added that it was unfortunate that a farmer leader fighting for water for the district had to fall sick before authorities responded.

He also said that providing water to farmers and residents of the district is an urgent need. Several organisations must now unite to demand both proper treatment for the ailing leader and funds to complete the project at the earliest.

Thinker J. Yadava Reddy said the district had been neglected by successive governments. He added that political leaders should have shown more commitment to the irrigation project.

Farmers' Association state working president Basava Reddy accused the district administration of treating the protest in an insensitive manner. He warned that state-level farmer leaders would soon visit the district and launch a larger struggle.

Several leaders, including Qasim Ali and Anil Kumar, said the authorities must bear the medical expenses and respond quickly to farmers' demands for water.

District launches HPV vaccine drive for girls

KARWAR

The Department of Health and Family Welfare in Uttara Kannada district has planned a special vaccination campaign to prevent cervical cancer among adolescent girls.

According to health officials, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in India. Data from 2022 shows that more than 79,000 new cases and around 34,800 deaths are reported every year in the country.

To reduce this risk, the district administration will provide the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine free of cost to girls aged 14 to 15 years. In Uttara Kannada district, around 14,835 girls in this age group have been identified as beneficiaries under the campaign.

Health authorities said 5,300 doses of the vaccine have already reached the district in the first phase. More vaccines will be supplied as required by the Department of Health and Family Welfare Karnataka.

The vaccination will be provided at district hospitals, taluk hospitals, community health centres and selected primary health centres. Officials said doctors and nursing staff have already been trained on the vaccination procedure and its benefits.

Unlike some immunisation programmes, the vaccine will not be administered directly in schools. Instead, parents are advised to bring their children to nearby health centres for vaccination.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Shankar Rao said meetings will soon be held in schools with parents and teachers to create awareness about the importance of the vaccine.

The vaccine protects against infection caused by the human papillomavirus, which can lead to cervical cancer. Health experts said the vaccine is already used in more than 160 countries and helps significantly reduce the risk of cervical cancer and other related diseases.

Power outage scheduled across Chitradurga today

Chitradurga

The BESCOM authorities have announced a power disruption on March 8 due to emergency maintenance at the 220/66/11 KV Chitradurga Receiving Centre and aqueduct construction for the Bhadra Upper River Project by VJNL. Residents in Madanayakanahalli, C.B. Halli, Yelavarthi, Muddapura, Hosagollarahatti, Bangarakkanahalli, Rayanahalli, Surenahalli, Ainahalli, Thuruvanoor, Bommakanahalli, Koonabevu, Tavaenahalli, Doddaghatta, Kariyammanahatti, Kotehatti, Hunasekatte, Yelagode, Isamudra, Nellikatte, Kalagere, and nearby villages will experience outages from 10 am to 5 pm. Authorities urged the public to cooperate and plan accordingly during the maintenance.

Chitradurga Industries Officer Anand given warm farewell

CHITRADURGA

The Industries Department in Chitradurga on Saturday organized a warm farewell for B. Anand, Joint Director of the District Industrial Centre, following his transfer and new appointment in Bengaluru. He has been appointed as the Managing Director of Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited.

Anand served in Chitradurga district for the past four years and played a key role in promoting industrial development. During his tenure, he actively supported the establishment of small, medium, and large industries in the district. His efforts helped attract investments worth crores of rupees and created several employment opportunities for local people.

In recognition of his dedicated service, the government appointed him to the new post, which he has already taken charge of in Bengaluru.

Chitradurga marks World Social Justice Day

CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga city recently hosted a special program to celebrate World Social Justice Day, focusing on spreading awareness about the aspirations of the Indian Constitution. The event was held at Aadhar Bhavan under the joint organization of the District Legal Services Authority, District Administration, Bar Association, Zilla Panchayat, Social Welfare Department, and District Scheduled Castes Welfare Department.

Honorable Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, Rona Vasudev, inaugurated the program and explained to students the wide scope of social justice and its importance in society.

Additional District Collector B.T. Kumaraswamy presided over the program, highlighting the role of governance in ensuring fairness and equality.

Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, M. Vijay, gave a detailed talk on fundamental rights, caste discrimination, untouchability, and gender equality. Assistant Professor Vedanta Elanchi delivered a special lecture emphasizing social equality and women's rights.

The program was attended by prominent officials including H.S. Maheshwarappa, President of the Bar Association, B. Mallikarjuna, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, and Diwakar, District Scheduled Castes Welfare Officer. Participants discussed strategies to promote social justice, equality, and inclusivity across all sections of society, making the day informative and impactful for students and citizens alike.

Bheemgayana program spreads Ambedkar ideals among youth

CHITRADURGA

The "Bheemgayana" programme highlighting the life and ideals of B. R. Ambedkar was organised in the city to inspire the younger generation and spread awareness about constitutional values.

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority President R. Shivanna Ganjigatte said that the struggles and sacrifices of Ambedkar have helped people in the country secure constitutional rights and live with dignity today. He said the younger generation must understand and adopt Ambedkar's principles in their lives. He was speaking after inaugurating the programme organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Information and Public Relations Department, Social Welfare Department and Scheduled Castes Welfare Department at Shivsharan Madara Channaiah Sabha Bhavan in Chitradurga.

Shivanna said the government has introduced several programmes under the slogan "Jai Bapu, Jai Bheem, Jai Samvidhan" to strengthen constitutional values. The Bheemgayana programme presents the life struggles and achievements of Ambedkar through songs and cultural performances, helping people understand his message.

He noted that untouchability once existed as a painful social practice, but Ambedkar's efforts and the Constitution helped remove such discrimination. The Constitution guarantees social security, economic equality and political rights to all citizens, along with freedom of religion and belief. Urban Development Authority Chairman Tajpir praised the government for selecting Chitradurga district for the programme. He suggested involving the Education Department and encouraging students from schools to participate so that Ambedkar's ideals reach more children.

During the event, singers presented songs on Ambedkar and Gautama Buddha. Officials and guests also paid floral tributes to portraits of Buddha, Basavanna and Ambedkar.

Applications open for one-month SC/ST training

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The Tourism Department has invited applications for a one-month skill development training to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the SCSP/TSP scheme for 2025-26. The program aims to help small entrepreneurs start mobile canteens with government-provided subsidies after training. A total of 13 candidates will be selected: 8 from Scheduled Castes and 5 from Scheduled Tribes. Training will be conducted through state and central hospitality institutions, with accommodation provided. Candidates must have passed 10th class, be between 20 and 45 years of age, and submit applications by March 13, 2026. Interested individuals can contact the Assistant Director, Tourism Department, Chikkaballapur, at 08156-277041 for details on eligibility, required documents, and queries. The program is expected to empower participants with practical entrepreneurial skills and support for self-employment.

Karwar Lokayukta schedules open junk auction

KARWAR

The Karnataka Lokayukta office in Karwar has announced open auctions for old newspapers and unused office items. The auction for old newspapers will be held on March 24 at 12 noon. Useless furniture, spare parts of departmental vehicles, and tires and tubes will be auctioned on April 8 at 12 noon on the Lokayukta office premises. Interested buyers can participate in both auctions. The Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Lokayukta, has the authority to accept or reject bids. For more details, parties can contact 08382-295293, 222250, 222022, or 220198 during office hours.

SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
SURYODAY A BANK OF SMILES
Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector – 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.

APPENDIX -IV [Rule 8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)
Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrower/s / Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s / Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herewith.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	28-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000002840 1) MR. PARASHIVAMURTHY S S/O SHIVAMURTHY 2) MR. SHIVAMURTHY S/O PUTTAYAIAH 3) MRS. PUTTATHAYAMMA W/O SHIVAMURTHY	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,06,803/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL TIIAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABI.E FROPERTY BEARING T. DODDAPURA VILLAGE JANJAR NO. 129, PROPERTY NO. 129, PANCHAYATH UNIQUE NO. 1522OO7O231OOOO250, SITUATED AT T.DODDAPURA VILLLAGE, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF T. DODDAPURA GRAMA PANCHAYATH, TALAKADU HOBLI, T. NARASIPURA TALUK, MYSORE DISTRICT, KARNATAKA 571124 MEASURING: E-W: 6.4OO8 METERS & N-S: 13.1O64 METERS AND BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST : HOUSE BELONGS TO BASAVARAJU & NANJUNDAIAH,NORTH : SITE BELONGS TO BASAVARAJU,WEST : HOUSE BELONGS TO DAASIRANGAIAH, SOUTH : ROAD		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000171658 1) MRS. NETHRAVATHI W/O MANJUNATHA 2) MR.MANJUNATH S/O MRANKASHETTI	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,40,875.69/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING OLD PROPERTY NO-17 NEW PROPERTY NO-152200102502000071 MEASURING EAST TO WEST-6.4008 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH-15.24 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=97.548192 SQ. MTR. SITUATED AT NEMMANAHALLI VILLAGE SARAGURU TALUK MYSORE DISTRICT-571121, BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: EAST: ROAD, WEST: HOUSE OF SOMASHETTY,NORTH: ROAD,SOUTH: HOUSE OF VENKATESHA		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 239000001830 1) MR. RAJESH C S/O S C BEEDI CHANA BASAVAIAH 2) MRS. MAHADEVAMMA W/O RAJESH	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 6,37,423.00/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE RCC & MANGALORE TILED HOUSE PROPERTY NO: 508/217, E-KATHA NO-150800300100600516 SITUATED AT TERAMBALLI VILLAGE, KOLLEGALA TQ & CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF KUNTHURU GRAM PANCHAYATHI DURATION. WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:- EAST : THE GOVT ROAD, WEST : THE HOUSE OF BHATTAMMA W/O PUTTAMADAIAH,SOUTH : THE PATHWAY, NORTH : THE SITE OF APPLICANT		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000002657 1) MRS. NANJAPPA B S S/O SHIVAPPA 2) MRS. GOWRAMMA W/O SHIVAPPA 3) MR. MANJUNATHA B S S/O SHIVAPPA	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,65,891.00/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY E SWOTHU KATHA 11B, PROPERTY BEARING NO.28A, PID NO.151600701000300389, MEASURING EAST TO WEST 7.01040000 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH 9.144 METERS THE SAID PROPERTY SITUATED AT BETTADASATHENAHALLI VILLAGE, HOLENARSIPURA TALUK, HASSAN DISTRICT AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: EAST: HOUSE OF RUDRAPPA,WEST: HOUSE OF IRAPPA AND HEMALATHA,SOUTH: HOUSE OF SHILPA,NORTH: ROAD.		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000058203 1) MRS. NAGENDRA P S/O PUTTASUBBASHETTY 2) MR. PUTTASUBBASHETTY S/O PUTTAMADASHETTY 3) MRS. BANGARAMMA W/O PUTTASIDDASHETTY	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,76,018.40/-AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE MANGALORE TILED HOUSE PROPERTY NO:-76 E-KATH NO-150800103700100074 SITUATE VEERANAPURA VILLAGE, CHAMARAJANAGARA TQ & DISTRICT. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NANJEDEVANAPURA GRAMA PANCHAYATHI DURATION, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:- EAST: THE HOUSE OF BHAGYAMMA,WEST : THE ROAD,SOUTH : THE HOUSE OF SHAMBHULINGAPPA,NORTH : ROAD.		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000005202 1) MRS. MANJULA W/O LAKSHMAN NAYAKA 2) . LAKSHMAN NAYAKA S/O BORANAYKA	Date of NPA	06-03-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 2,71,392.00/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSE BEARING OLD NO-87/1 NEW PROPERTY NO-152200201510600203 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=4.60 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=12.20 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=56.12 SQ. MTR SITUATED AT M.R.HOOSAHALLI VILLAGE HANAGODU HOBLI HUNSUR TALUK MYSORE DISTRICT-571105.BOUNDARIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:EAST: PROPERTY OF CHANDRANAYAKA,WEST : GALLI & PROPERTY OF VASANTHEGOWDA,SOUTH : GALLI AND PROPERTY OF THAMMANAYAKA,NORTH : ROAD.		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000004849 1) MRS. KEMPAMMA D/O MOORI CHIKKANDALA 2) MRS. GIRISH S/O SHIVAIAH.	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,52,541/-AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARTNG KATHA NO-813/2, PANCHAYATH UNIQUE NO.1522OO541O52O2O323, SITUATED AT HALLERE VILLAGE, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF HALLERE GRAMA PANCHAYATH, HULLAHALLI HOBLI, NANJANGUD TALUK, MYSURU DISTRICT, MEASURING: EAST-WEST: 9.448A METERS, & NORTH-SOUTH: 6.4008 METERS, TOTAL MEASUREMENT 60.48 SQ. METER, AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:EAST BY: HOUSE OF MAHADEVAIAH,WEST BY : HOUSE OF CHENNAIAH,NORTH BY : HOUSE OF MARIPILLAIAH,SOUTH BY : ROAD		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 239000055420 1) MRS. GOWRAMMA W/O MADESHU 2) MR.MADESHUS/O MAHADEVAIAH	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,02,749.61/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE MANGLORE TILED HOUSE BEARING PROPERTY NO:- 730, E-KATHA NO- 150800400800100996 SITUATED AT MADDURU VILLAGE, YALANDURU TALUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA 571441, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF MADDURU GRAM PANCHAYATHI DURATION AND BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST: THE HOUSE OF SANNAMADAIAH ,NORTH: THE ROAD ,WEST: THE ROAD,SOUTH: THE OWN SITE		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 239000002322 1) MRS. HOMBAKKA W/O JAYANNA 2) MR. UMESHA S/O JAYANNA	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 2,94,794/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY E-SWOTHU KATHA 9 AND 11A, PROPERTY BEARING NO. 273/262 PID NO. 152100204100100665 MEASURING EAST TO WEST 9.144 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH 13.716000000000001 METERS THE SAID PROPERTY SITUATED AT BORAPURA VILLAGE, MADDUR TALUK, MANDYA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA 571428, AND BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST: ROAD,NORTH: ROAD,WEST: PROPERTY OF VENKATASWAMY,SOUTH: PROPERTY OF DODDAGANGAIAH		

If the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) fails to make payment to SSFBL as aforesaid, SSFBL shall be entitled to take possession of the secured asset mentioned above and shall take such other actions as is available to the Company in law, entirely at the risks, cost and consequences of the borrowers.
The said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the provision of sub section (13) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise referred to in the notice without prior consent of SSFBL.

Place: Karnataka Date: 25-02-2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, For Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited**

Priyank Kharge slams Centre over foreign policy

Kharge criticized the Union government's silence on statements by Donald Trump, questioning why the Prime Minister hadn't responded publicly

KALABURAGI

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge strongly criticised the Union government, saying India's image at the international level has suffered due to the foreign policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

Speaking to reporters in Kalaburagi, Kharge claimed that several international leaders are now speaking lightly about India. He referred to remarks by foreign officials and said such statements show a lack of strong response from the Indian government.

He said it was surprising that foreign leaders could make comments suggesting that India's growth could be restricted or influenced by global decisions. According to him, India should take an independent stand on such issues.

Kharge also criticised the silence of the Union government on certain statements made by world leaders. He referred to comments by former United States President Donald Trump and questioned why the Prime Minister had not responded publicly.

He further asked whether the central government was ready to clearly explain its foreign policy decisions and defend India's position in global matters.

During the interaction with the media, Kharge also spoke about the increase in domestic cooking gas prices. He said Union ministers should explain the reasons for the price rise and respond to public concerns about the issue.

Responding to a question about student union elections in colleges, the minister said the government would carefully examine all concerns, including objections raised by parents and institutions.

He added that student elections are conducted in many universities across the country, including Jawaharlal Nehru University, and decisions would be taken only after discussions with all stakeholders.

Homely atmosphere being created in govt hostels

VIJAYAPURA

District Magistrate Dr. Anand K said efforts are being made to create a homely atmosphere in government hostels so that children can study comfortably and develop a strong personality. He spoke at the closing ceremony of the 2025–26 pre-matric hostel stay programme and prize distribution event held at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Government Girls' Hostel near Farla Hotel in Vijayapura. The programme was organised jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and the Social Welfare Department.

Dr. Anand said hostels are important learning centres that help shape the future of students. District-level officers have been appointed as hostel mentors and they regularly visit hostels to interact with students, motivate them and support their studies.

Dr. Anand said hostels shape students' futures; district officers, appointed as mentors, regularly visit to guide, motivate, and support students' learning and development

He said mentors are helping improve hostel facilities by providing teaching aids, furniture, study materials and guidance. Special attention is also being given to students' health, including medical treatment and medicines whenever needed. According to him, these steps help children feel safe and comfortable, just like they are at home. Mentors also encourage students to build confidence and participate in different activities so that they do not fall behind in studies or hesitate in life.

Dr. Anand advised students to develop the habit of asking questions and discussing lessons with classmates. Such discussions help them understand subjects better and remember them for a long time.

He also suggested inviting former successful hostel students on Hostel Day to share their experiences and inspire current students. Prizes were distributed to winners of sports and cultural competitions during the event.

Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department Mahesh Potadara delivered the introductory speech and congratulated students who won awards at district, divisional and state levels.

Deputy Commissioner orders action to control stray dogs

UDUPI

Deputy Commissioner Swaroop T. K. has directed officials to strictly implement the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court of India to control the menace of stray dogs in a humane and scientific manner across the district.

He gave the instructions while presiding over a district-level committee meeting on stray dog management held at the Collector's Office hall at Rajatadri in Manipal on Friday.

The Deputy Commissioner said the Supreme Court had issued several guidelines to address problems caused by stray dogs while ensuring humane treatment. He asked all concerned departments and local bodies to follow the directions strictly to protect public safety and prevent the spread of rabies.

Officials were instructed to intensify Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes and vaccination drives. They were also told to relocate aggressive or diseased dogs to shelters and ensure proper care and treatment.

According to officials, 440 stray dogs have been identified in 253 institutions in the urban parts of the district. These include government and private educational institutions, hospitals, bus and railway stations, stadiums and government offices.

The Deputy Commissioner directed authorities to appoint nodal officers in all such institutions and install boards at entrances displaying the contact numbers of officials responsible for handling stray dog complaints.

Land has also been identified in different taluks for building dog shelters, including nine acres in Udupi city, land near Kandavara dumping yard in Kundapur, areas in Karkala, Kapu's Shirva, Byndoor and Saligrama.

He said shelters should provide food, water, shade and veterinary care. Officials were also asked to promote dog adoption and consider organising dog shows to encourage people to adopt stray dogs.

Advisory issued to protect people from heatwave

UDUPI

The India Meteorological Department has predicted that temperatures across Karnataka may remain above normal during the summer months from March to May, prompting the district authorities to issue a public advisory.

The Udupi District Disaster Management Authority has warned that extreme heat could affect the health of people, especially children, elderly persons and those who are already ill. According to the advisory, citizens should avoid going out in the sun during peak heat hours between 12 noon and 3 pm. People have been advised to drink plenty of water even if they are not thirsty and wear light-coloured, loose cotton clothes to stay comfortable during hot weather.

Officials also suggested using sunglasses, umbrellas or hats and wearing proper footwear when stepping outside in the sun. Residents have been advised to avoid heavy work during the hottest part of the day and carry water while travelling. The advisory also warns people not to consume alcohol, tea, coffee or carbonated drinks in excess, as they may lead to dehydration. Instead, homemade drinks like lemon water, buttermilk and oral rehydration solution (ORS) are recommended. Citizens are encouraged to eat fruits with high water content such as watermelon, oranges, grapes and pineapple.

Potters Development Corporation welcomed by Bidar community

BIDAR

The potters' community has warmly welcomed the government's decision to establish a Potters Development Corporation in this year's budget. The initiative aims to boost the economic and social development of potters, promote traditional heritage and handicraft industries, and create new employment opportunities. Baburao Kumbara, president of the Potters Handicrafts Industry Cooperative Association, said the move will provide a fresh direction for community development. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Bidar District In-charge Minister Eshwar Khandre, and Haj and Municipal Administration Minister Rahim Khan announced the project and expressed gratitude to the community for their support.

Vijayapura women's car rally promotes cancer awareness

VIJAYAPURA

A special car rally was organized by the Jito Women's Division of Vijayapura to raise awareness about cancer while celebrating Women's Day in a meaningful way.

The rally began at the city's Jain temple and traveled through prominent locations including Sri Siddeshwara Temple, Gandhi Circle, Water Tank, Shivaji Circle, before concluding at Spurthi Hall. Members of the association, representatives of various organizations, and doctors participated enthusiastically, many wearing red and carrying placards highlighting cancer prevention methods and risk factors.

District Additional Superintendent of Police Ramanagara Hatti flagged off the rally. He praised women for achieving success in fields like medicine, science, and space, and for their roles as mothers, sisters, and wives. He said organizing a cancer awareness rally is a meaningful way to honor their contributions.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Vani Gachchinamath emphasized that early detection of cancer can lead to complete recovery and urged people not to delay medical advice due to fear. She highlighted the importance of a healthy lifestyle and diet in preventing diseases.

Legal expert Dr. Ujwala Saranadagouda, physician Dr. Kiran Oswal, and social worker Mahavir Parekh participated. The rally also saw active participation from Jito Chairman Dhirish Dharmadarshi, Dr. Ashwini Yandigeri, Suhasini Varad, Dr. Jyoti Korabu, and others, spreading awareness and inspiring the community.

Laughter message marks Taruna Sangha anniversary celebration

KALABURAGI

A lively programme filled with laughter and cultural messages marked the 29th anniversary celebration of Shri Mallikarjuna Taruna Sangha at Vidyanagar in Kalaburagi.

Well-known comedian Gundanna Diggi inaugurated the event and entertained the audience with humorous talks drawn from everyday life. Speaking on the occasion, he said laughter is the best medicine for both physical and mental health. According to him, laughing reduces stress hormones in the body and releases positive hormones that improve immunity.

Diggi joked that in some places people even join special laughing clubs to practice laughter. He playfully asked the audience why many people hesitate to laugh freely, adding that laughter should come naturally and help people stay healthy and happy. His humorous remarks made the gathering burst into laughter.

Senior writer Dr. Swamirava Kulkarni delivered a lecture on the meaning and importance of Kamadahana, which is observed during the festival of Holi. He explained that Kamadahana symbolically burns negative qualities such as greed, anger, jealousy and attachment that arise from excessive desire.

Using examples from mythological stories and teachings of great personalities, he said the message of the ritual is to encourage people to live a peaceful and balanced life by controlling harmful thoughts and desires.

Taruna Sangha President Shivaraj Andagi, Society President Mallinath Deshmukh and Vice President Umesh Shetty were present on the stage.

Later, members of the Taruna Sangha performed the traditional Kamadahana ritual and sang Holi songs. Folk artist Vishwanath Thotnalli from Kusanur also presented a lively performance dressed as Potharaja, dancing to the beats of traditional drums, which attracted great appreciation from the audience.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SHANAZ**, W/o Syed Hyder, Resident of No 273/9, 30th Cross, BTB Area Tilaknagar, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041, have changed my name to **SHAHNAZ**, Vide Affidavit Dated 06.03.2026 before notary R BASAVARAJU, Bengaluru

NAME CHANGE

I, **HAREESHA UJJAL**, S/o, Kariya Moolya, Resident of No 1 – 7A,kukkedy Belthangady Taluku Kukkedy Dakshina Kannada Dist, 574242, have changed my name to **HARISHA UJJAL**, vide affidavit dated: 07.03.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ISMAIL ABDUL REHMAN**, S/o, Abdul Rehman, Resident of No 260,9th Cross Near Jamiya Masjid Hegganahalli Bengaluru Dist, 560091, have changed my name to **ISMAIL**, vide affidavit dated: 07.03.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shobha Marhija (Old Name), D/o Late Girdharidas Nichain, aged 79 years, Date of Birth: 13/02/1947, residing at No.202, La Citadel Apartments, Cunningham Crescent Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560001 hereby declare that henceforth I shall be known and identified only as **Shobha Makhija** for all purposes, records, and future transactions as sworn before Advocate & Notary Puttaramaiah, City Civil Court Complex, Bengaluru – 560009 dated 28.02.2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mr. **Mahamad Farooq** S/o Amir Jan, aged about 45 years, residing at #555, 2nd Cross, Azad Nagar, Gauribidanur Town, Chikkaballapur District, hereby declare that my real name is **Mahamad Farooq** but my passport has been wrongly entered as **Mahamad Farook**. I hereby declare before **K.H. Venkatappa**, Advocate and Notary, Chikkaballapur, on 05/03/2026, that henceforth I will use my name **Mahamad Farooq** for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Yasmeen Taj** w/o Mahamad Farooq, aged about 45 years, residing at #555, 2nd Cross, Azad Nagar, Gauribidanur Town, Chikkaballapur District, hereby declare that my Husband name is **Mahamad Farooq** but in my passport has been wrongly entered as **Mahamad Farook.** I hereby declare before K.H. Venkatappa, Advocate and Notary, Chikkaballapur, on 05/03/2026, that henceforth I will use my Husband name **Mahamad Farooq** for all purposes.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.MISC. NO. 1002/2024

SRI KRISHNAPPA aged about 57 years, W/o Late Thimmaiah, Residing at Khada Thippura Village Dodda belavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk **Petitioner**
And THE TAHASILDAR DODDABALLAPURA **Respondant**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above petitioner has filed the above C Mis petition under section 13(3) of the Indian births and deaths act seeking direction to registrar of Births and death, the Tahasildar Doddaballapura Taluk to register the death of his Mother late Smt, RUDRAMMA W/o Late THIMMAIAH died on 01.07.2016 at Khada Thippuru Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangaluru Rural District.
Such being the position, if any person who have got any objection to the said petition are hereby informed to be present before the Honble court on 02.04.2026 hearing date at 11 AM to file their objection to the petition if any.
Take notice that in default of appearance on the day fixed above mentioned the petition will be disposed of one sided by considering that there is no any objection from any person to this cmis petition 2.3.2026

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer, 1st Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

Advocate for petitioner: **PS & Associates, Pranav Samrud** B.A.L., LLB.
Vijay Kumar. M B.Com, LLB. Advocates, Sri Rama Nilaya, Opp. to Civil Court Complex, Vinayakanagara, Doddaballapur-561 203.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT HOSAKOTE
CMIS.NO 153/2026

BETWEEN:- 1. Smt.Sarojamma, D/o Late Nanjundappa, W/o Late Mariyappa, Aged about 72 years, R/at:-Kannurahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562114. **2. Sri.Rajanna,** Son of late Nanjundappa, Aged about 65 years, **3. Smt.M.Gowramma,** Wife of Rajanna, Aged about 58 years, **4. Sri.Deepak.T.R,** Son of Rajanna, Aged about 39 years, Petitioner No.2 to 4 are R/at:- #104,SRV Compound, BH Road, Tiptur, Tumkur-572201. **Petitioners**
AND:- The Thahasildar, Birth & Death Register, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. **..Respondent**

PEPAR PUBLICATION DRAFT

The Father of the petitioner No.1 and 2, and Father-in-law of the petitioner No.3 and Grand father of the Petitioner No.4 by name Lakshmaiah son of Late Nagappa died on 10-12-1976 at Chimandahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The petitioners have filed this petition for obtaining of death certificate of said Lakshmaiah son of Late Nagappa died on 10-12-1976, the petitioner published this matter for anybody interesting persons or by a pleader if in this matter will appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by pleader on 06.04.2026. Take notice than in default of your appearance, which this petition will be disposed of ex-party.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court this.. of 07.03.2026.

By order of the court,
Sheristedar, Principal Civil Judge at Hosakote
Advocate for petitioners Advocate, Hoskote.
Place:-Hosakote, Date:- 07-03-2026

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector – 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.

APPENDIX -IV [Rule 8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)
Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrower/s / Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s / Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herewith.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000004468 1 MR. SIDDARAJANAYAKA M S/O MADANAYAKA 2) MRS. GOWRAMMA W/O ARASA NAYAKA	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 2,15,832/- as on 13.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING AC SHEET HOUSE PROPERTY KHATHA ASSESMENT NO:-352/158, E-KATHA NO-15O8OO4OO4O1O2OO39 SITUATED AT ALKERE AGRATTARA VILLAGE, YELANDURU TALUK, CHAMARAJANAGAR, DISTRICT. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF GOWDAHALTI GRAM PANCHAYATHI DURATION, BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: EAST BY: THE HOUSE OF DODDASNAYAKA.WEST BY :THE CHANNEL AND THE SITE OF PANCHALINGESHWARA,NORTH BY: THE CHANNEL,SOUTH BY : THE ROAD ADMEASURING EAST TO WEST: 9.14 METERS,NORTH TO SOUTH: 12.192 METERS,TOTALLY MEASURING: 111.84 SQ METERS BUILDING IF ANY: 111.84 SQ METERS

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	26-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 217060003049 1) MRS. RENUKA RENUKA W/O NAGENDRA 2) MR. NAGENDRA S/O SANNE GOWDA	Date of NPA	04-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 7,27,757.76/- as on 14.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): All THEPIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.- 43, UNIQUE NO.- 1522OO2O27169OOO56, KADEMANUGANHALLI VILLAGE AND GRAM PANCHAYAT, HUSNUR TALUK, MYSORE-DISTRICT, KARNATKA-5711O5, AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: EAST BY : PROPERTY OF APPAJIGOWDA ,WEST BY : VILLAGE ROAD NORTH BY : VACANT SITE OF PARAVATHAMMA ,SOUTH BY : VACANT SITE OF NAGENDRA

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000166432 1) MRS. SHRUTHI S W/O NARAYANSWAMY S R 2) MR. NARAYANSWAMY S R S/O RAMANAYAKA 3) MRS. JAYABHAYTI W/O RAMANAYAKA	Date of NPA	05-08-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,10,747.11/- as on 13.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY MEASURING BEARING N0:307 KHATHA NO:333, FORM NO.9 & 11A, PROPERTY RDPRD NO:1525OO1OO3O19OO548, MEASURING EAST TO WEST 9.14 MTR & NORTH TO SOUTH 8.83 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT 80.82 SQMTR AND HOUSE BUILTUP AREA OF 80.82 SQMTR, ISSUED GANADALU GRAMAPANCHAYATH, PROPPRTY SITUATED SOMANAHALLI VILLAGE, CHIKKANAVAKANAHALLI TALUK, TUMKURU DISTRICT. BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: East: Galli & House ofChandranayak,West: Galli & House of Neelabai,North: Galli & House of Kumar Naik,SOUTH: ROAD.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000047526 1) MRS. REKHA W/O K N CHANNABASAVEGOWDA 2) MR. K N CHANNABASAVEGOWDA S/O K C NINGAIAH 3) MRS. CHENNAMMA W/O K C NINGAIAH	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 10,68,563.14/- as on 13.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING E-SWOTHU KATHA 11B, PROPERTY BEARING NO.87 JANGER NO.101 PID NO.152200700304400620 MEASURING EAST-WEST 17.0688 METERS NORTH-SOUTH 12.8016 METERS TOTALLY MEASURING 218.51 SQ.METERS THERE ON BUILDING MEASUREMENT 218.51 SQ METERS THE SAID PROPERTY SITUATED AT MENASIKYATHANAHALLI VILLAGE, T. NARASIPURA TALUK, MYSURU DISTRICT AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:EAST BY : HOUSE OF SAKAMMA W/O CHANNABASAVEGOWDA,WEST BY: HOUSE OF PUTTACHENNAMMA W/O SIDDAMADEGOWDA,NORTH BY: OWN SITE AND ROAD,SOUTH BY : SITE OF DAVANI KALEGOWDA.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000069111 1) MR. RAMESH NAYAK S/O MOTA NAYAK 2) MRS. SHOBHA RAI W/O RAMESH NAYAK	Date of NPA	09-07-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 2,87,628.84/- as on 13.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING PRESENT KANESHUMARI/KATHA NO 43/40 AND PID NO152900100500500566 MEASUSRING EAST TO WEST 11.2 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH 6.6 METERS TOTAL MEASURING 73.92 SQ METERS SITUATED AT MENASIGANAHALLI VILLAGE BHUHALLI GRAMA PANCHAYATH CHANNAPATNA TALUK RAMANAGARA DIST KARNATAKA 562138, AND BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST: REMAINING PROPERTY ,NORTH: REMAINING PROPERTY WEST: GOVT ROAD ,SOUTH: DEVI BAI

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	26-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227020000044 1) MRS. SHILAPA W/O JAGADISHA 2) MR. JAGADISHA S/O SHIVANNA	Date of NPA	08-06-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,85,024.57/- as on 13.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY MEASURING BEARING KHATHEDHAR OF R.C.C. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE BEARING OLD PROPERTY NO-93/93/68/1 NEW PROPERTY NO- 1522OO2O1219O2OO16 EAST TO WEST=1O.2 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=5.2 MTR SITUATED AT AGRAHARA VILLAGE, GAVADAGERE HOBLI, HUNSUR, TALUK, MYSORE DISTRICT-571134. BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: EAST BY : ROAD ,WEST BY: IHOUSE OF MR KENCHEGOWDA ,NORTH BY : ROAD,SOUTH BY: HOUSE OF MR SIVANNA NAYAKA.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000005359 1) MRS. ANITHA W/O PARAMESHA 2) MR. PARAMESHA S/O GIDDAYYA	Date of NPA	08-06-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 7,70,777.00/- as on 22.09.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY E – SWOTHU KATHA 9 AND 11A, PROPERTY BEARING NO. 361, PID NO. 151600701000100367, MEASURING EAST TO WEST 9.144 METRES AND NORHT TO SOUTH 9.144 METRES THE SAID PROPERTY SITUATED AT KADAVINAKOTE VILLAGE, HALEKOTE HOBALI, HOLENARSIPURA TALUK AND HASSAN DISTRICT AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:EAST BY : HOUSE OF MR. MANJUNATHA,WEST BY HOUSE OF MRS. LAKSHMAMMA,NORTH BY: HOUSE IF MR. SWAMY,SOUTH BY ROAD.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	28-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 239000002591 1) MR. ANIL KUMAR V S/O VENKATASWAMY 2) MR. VENKATASWAMY S/O CHIKKEGOWDA 3) MRS. VASANTHA W/O VENKATASWAMY 4) MR. SUNIL S/O VENKATASWAMY	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 8,16,593/- as on 13.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING PRESENT KHANESHUMARI KATHA NO. 104/140 AND PID NO. 152900400200300144, MEASURING EAST TO WEST 6.85 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH 20.00 METERS, TOTAL MEASURING 137.19 SQ. METERS, SITUATED AT LAKKOJANAHALLI VILLAGE, BANNIKUPPE GRAMA PANCHAYATH, KYLANCHA HOBLI, RAMANAGARA TALUK AND RAMANAGARA DISTRICT, AND BOUNDED AS UNDER: BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST : HOUSE OF GOWRAMMA,NORTH: LAND OF RAMACHANDRAIAH, WEST : PROPERTY OF GIRIGOWDA, SOUTH : GOVT. ROAD.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 237000000191 1) MR. RAJESH S/O CHANDREGOWDA 2) MRS. KALPANA W/O CHANDREGOWDA 3) MR. CHANDREGOWDA S/O JAVAREGOWDA	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,97,518.00/- as on 13.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PART AND PIECE RESIDENTIAL HOUSE BEARING OLD PROPERTY NO-799/1 JANJAR NO-1416 PROPERTY NO-799/2 JANJAR NO-1417 NEW PROPERTY NO-152200300117301490 MEASURING EAST TO WEST 10.668000000000001 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH-12.192 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=130.06 SQ. MTR BUILDING MEASURING =85.94 SQ MTR. SITUATED AT GANDHANAHALLI VILLAGE K.R.NAGARA TALUK MYSORE DISTRICT WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:- EAST : HOUSE OF KENDHAMMA,WEST : ROAD,SOUTH : ROAD,NORTH : SCHOOL COMPUND.

If the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) fails to make payment to SSFBL as aforesaid, SSFBL shall be entitled to take possession of the secured asset mentioned above and shall take such other actions as is available to the Company in law, entirely at the risks, cost and consequences of the borrowers.
The said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the provision of sub section (13) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise referred to in the notice without prior consent of SSFBL.

Place: Karnataka Date: 25-02-2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, For Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited**

QUICK READ

Punjab Cabinet Approves Guru Teg Bahadur University

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday approved setting up a world-class university named after Guru Teg Bahadur at Anandpur Sahib. The Cabinet cleared the draft bill for the Sri Guru Teg Bahadur World Class University, which will be placed in the Assembly. It also approved the Industrial and Business Development Policy 2026 and recruitment of 1,158 Assistant Professors and Librarians in government colleges. The new policy aims to boost industries, create jobs, improve infrastructure and strengthen Punjab's economic growth.

Gujarat ATS Busts Illegal Drug Export Racket

AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad has uncovered an illegal network exporting the anaesthetic drug Etomidate to Southeast Asian countries. One person has been detained, while two others are still being searched. Officials said the drug was falsely labelled and sent through courier services to buyers in Malaysia and Thailand using air cargo from Mumbai Airport. The investigation began after ATS officer Harsh Upadhyay received secret information. Customs officials and courier company FedEx were alerted, and suspicious parcels were stopped.

PM Modi Defends Speaker Om Birla Amid Removal Row

Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly defended Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla amid Opposition demand for his removal

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday strongly defended Om Birla, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, praising his dedication to the Constitution and parliamentary system. His remarks came two days before the House is expected to discuss an Opposition resolution seeking Birla's removal over allegations that he acted in a partisan manner during debates.

Speaking through a video message during the foundation stone ceremony of Kota Airport and the launch of several drinking water projects in Kota, Modi said that once a member becomes Speaker, he stands above party politics. He added that Birla leads the House by carrying everyone together and maintaining respect for all members.

The Prime Minister compared the Speaker's role to that of a patient teacher who calmly handles difficult situations. He said Birla manages members with patience even when they behave rudely or make harsh remarks. Modi added that the Speaker continues to smile and maintain dignity in the House despite facing criticism.

Meanwhile, the political tension has increased ahead of the debate. The Bharatiya Janata Party issued a three-line whip directing all its MPs to remain present in the Lok Sabha on March 9 and 10. The instruction was signed by party Chief Whip Sanjay Jaiswal, asking members to support the government during important legislative business.

The Opposition's demand to remove Birla gained strength after heated arguments in Parliament related to the unpublished memoirs of former Army Chief General M. M. Naravane. Opposition leaders claim the Speaker showed bias during discussions, an allegation strongly rejected by the ruling side.

With the second phase of the Budget Session beginning Monday, Parliament is preparing for a tense and closely watched debate.

Kota Airport Project Launched, PM Modi Hails Progress

JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed the foundation stone ceremony of the Kota–Bundi Greenfield Airport through a video message, calling the occasion a day of new hope and achievement for the Hadoti region. The event also marked the launch of major drinking water projects in Rajasthan.

The Prime Minister said the development initiatives would accelerate growth and create new opportunities for people in the region.

Modi recalled his recent visit to Ajmer where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth thousands of crores aimed at boosting the state's progress. On that occasion, appointment letters were also distributed to more than 21,000 youths of Rajasthan. He said the launch of two major development programmes within a week shows the rapid pace of development in the state. Modi also highlighted the importance of Kota, describing it as a major centre of education and energy. The Prime Minister mentioned the region's famous products and heritage such as Kota Kachori, Kota Doria, Kota Stone and several religious sites around the city.

Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, said residents of the region had demanded an airport for many years and that the Prime Minister's promise to build it has now been fulfilled. He noted that the area already has strong road and rail links, and air connectivity will further speed up development.

Iran Defends Independence After US, Israel Attacks

NEW DELHI

Abdul Majid Hakim Elahi, the representative in India of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei, said Iran will firmly defend its independence and dignity after what he described as attacks by the United States and the "Zionist regime," referring to Israel.

Elahi said the country has been forced into a defensive position due to what he called unjust aggression. He said Iran did not want the present situation but had no choice except to protect its land, morality and national independence.

Elahi said the current tensions have made neighbouring countries realise that foreign powers cannot guarantee long-term security in the region. According to him, many countries now believe they must solve their own problems without depending on outside military forces. He also said the presence of American military bases in several regional countries has not provided the stability those nations expected. Elahi claimed that despite spending billions of dollars and hosting foreign troops, regional states are beginning to understand that real security must come from within their own cooperation. Speaking about ties between India and Iran, Elahi said the two countries share strong historical and cultural bonds that date back nearly 3,000 years, including links in tradition, philosophy and civilisation. He admitted that the current conflict has disturbed trade, energy routes and oil exchanges between the nations. However, he expressed confidence that these disruptions are temporary and said regional cooperation and strong diplomatic and economic relations will continue once tensions ease.

Army Hosts Drone Innovation Meet With Academia Industry

JAIPUR : The Indian Army organised an academia–industry interaction on drone innovation in Jaipur as part of the Military–Civil Fusion Abhiyan. The programme was conducted by the Battle Axe Division of the Southern Command to promote cooperation between the armed forces, academic institutions and industry in defence technology development. More than 50 representatives from Dronum Aviation Ltd, academic institutions and the Army took part in the event. The meeting created a platform to discuss advancements in drone technology, skill development and modern defence systems required for future operations. Participants discussed ways to connect research, innovation and industry expertise with the technological needs of the armed forces. Special focus was given to unmanned aerial systems, counter-drone technologies and multi-domain operational capabilities that are becoming important in modern warfare.

TVK Chief Vijay Announces Welfare Promises For Women In Tamil Nadu

MAMALLAPURAM

Actor-turned-politician Vijay, president of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, announced a series of welfare promises focused on women, children and senior citizens while addressing a large gathering during a International Women's Day celebration in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu.

Speaking at the event organised by the party, Vijay said that women's empowerment, safety and economic security would be among the top priorities if his party comes to power in the State. He unveiled several initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for women and strengthening family welfare.

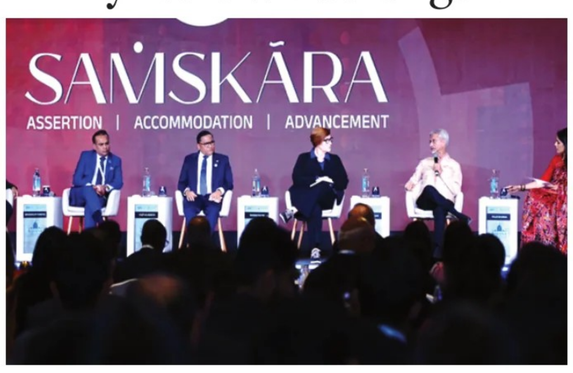
Among the key announcements was the creation of a separate government department dedicated to women, children and senior citizens. Vijay said the department would function under his direct supervision to ensure the effective implementation of welfare schemes. In a major financial support proposal, he promised a monthly assistance of Rs 2,500 for women aged 60 and above, excluding those employed in government service.

Vijay also introduced the "Annapoorna Super Six" scheme, under which every family would receive six free LPG cylinders annually to reduce household expenses and support women managing family kitchens.

To encourage education, he announced an annual scholarship of Rs 15,000 for mothers or guardians of students studying from Class 1 to Class 12, aimed at preventing school dropouts.

Vijay announced that under the "Vetri Yatra" initiative, women would travel free in government buses across Tamil Nadu. He also proposed the "Rani Velu Nachiyar Sena," with 500 teams for women's safety, subsidy loans up to Rs 5 lakh for women entrepreneurs, and the "Thai Maman Gold Ring Scheme" for newborns, stressing commitment to women's empowerment and security.

India's Rise Will Be Driven By Its Own Strength



NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday said India's global rise will be decided by its own strength and capabilities. Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue, he said the country's growth depends on domestic resilience, resources and consistent efforts, not on the mistakes of other nations.

Jaishankar said India's position in the Indian Ocean gives it a unique responsibility to support the development of the region. He said building a strong regional identity requires practical projects, cooperation and long-term commitments. According to him, India's growth will benefit many countries around the Indian Ocean.

He added that the region is gradually recovering and rebuilding trade links, connectivity and cooperation after years of challenges. Indian diplomacy, he said, has actively worked over the last decade to strengthen ties and encourage development across the region. Jaishankar also spoke about recent tensions in the Indian Ocean involving Iranian naval vessels. He called the sinking of the Iranian ship IRIS Dena by the United States unfortunate.

The vessel was returning after participating in a fleet review in India.

In contrast, India allowed another Iranian ship, IRIS Lavan, to dock in Kochi after it reported technical problems. The ship had taken part in the International Fleet Review and MILAN 2026 naval exercise. India approved its docking on humanitarian grounds after receiving a request from Iran. Jaishankar also highlighted concerns about the safety of merchant ships in conflict zones. He noted that many Indians work on global cargo vessels and their safety must remain a priority. He added that India also considers the welfare of nearly ten million Indians living in Gulf countries while shaping its foreign policy.

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.08472-278675, Flax No.08472-260776, E-mail: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/EE/TS-02/15th FC/2025-26 Date : 07.03.2026
Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notification No: /2025-26
1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike Kalaburagi invites 24 tenders as per KTPP Act. 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal 2.0 for works in KW-1,2,3,&4 Tender bid documents under 15th FC 2024-25 Savings and 15th FC 2024-25 & 2025-26 Change of Work & 15th FC 2025-26 Grant for 15 Days Tender. The bid documents can download from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2) Estimate Sanction cost : lowest amount Rs. 4.00 lakhs & highest amount Rs. 121.00 lakhs 3) EMD Value : Lowest Rs. 5,200.00 & Highest Rs.1,87,700.00, 4) Pre bid Meeting date: 25.03.2026 upto 11.00 am, 5) Last date of bid submission 25.03.2026 upto 4.30 pm, 6) Technical Bid Opening date : 26.03.2026 uptp 4.35 pm, 7) Financial Bid opening date: 27.03.2026 after 11.30 am, 7) Office address: Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike, Kalaburagi, 8) For more details visit office website **http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/** Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advoised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike,
Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1146/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector – 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.

APPENDIX -IV [Rule 8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)
Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrower/s / Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s / Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herewith.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	26-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 2259000084943 1) MR. GOPALASHETTY S/O SIDDASHETTY 2) MRS. GOWRAMMAW/O GOPALASHETTY	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,22,803.51/- as on 13.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE RCC HOUSE PROPERTY BEARING KHATHA ASSESSMENT NO:-120A, PID NO-150800201500220182, SITUATED AT ANNURKERI VILLAGE, GUNDLUPETE TALUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF ANNUR GRAM PANCHAYATHI DURATION. EAST-WEST 8.68 MTRS AND NORTH-SOUTH 9.14 MTRS. TOTAL BUILDING 190.52 SQ METERS, TOTAL BUILDING MEASUREMENT 79.33 SQ METERS.BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST: THE HOUSE OF SHIVAMMA NORTH : THE GOVT WATER DIG (HALL), WEST : THE HOUSE OF MANJULA,SOUTH : THE CONSERVANCY

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	26-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000164279 1) MR. A SRIKANTANAYKA S/O ANKANAYAKA 2) MR. ANKANAYAKA S/O BELLANAYAKA 3) MR. MANGALAMMA S/O KULLANAYAKA	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 7,24,450.58/- as on 13.11.2025

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MANGALORE TILED HOUSE PROPERTY NO:- 526 E-KATHA NO- 150800104100100822 SITUATED AT THAMMADAHALLI VILLAGE CHAMARAJANAGARA TQ & DISTTRICT. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NANJEDEVANAPURA GRAMA PANCHAYATHI DURATION MEASUREMENT EW- 9.144 METERS AND NS- 12.192 METERS AND TOTAL PLOT AREA MEASUREMENT 111.48 SQ. METERS AND TOTAL BUILDING AREA MEASUREMENT 111.48 SQ. METERS.BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST: THE BASEMENT OF RAMACHANDRANAIKA,NORTH: THE PROPERTY OF MADASHETTY,WEST: THE PROPERTY OF KALANAIKA,SOUTH : THE ROAD.

If the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) fails to make payment to SSFBL as aforesaid, SSFBL shall be entitled to take possession of the secured asset mentioned above and shall take such other actions as is available to the Company in law, entirely at the risks, cost and consequences of the borrowers.
The said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the provision of sub section (13) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise referred to in the notice without prior consent of SSFBL.

Place: Karnataka Date: 25-02-2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, For Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited**

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Tree Officer and Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Forest Wing, Annex 03 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru
No.: DCF/PR-753/2025-26 **Date: 07.03.2026**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Executive Engineer (Ele), Project Division, South, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru has submitted an application to the undersigned for removal of trees standing inside the premises of existing 400/220 kV Hoody Sub-Station, Bengaluru for "Strengthening of inner ring of 220kV transmission network in Bengaluru City". The details are given below:

Name of the Project	Strengthening of inner ring of 220kV transmission network in Bengaluru City which includes running 220 kV 1200 sqmm UG Cable from 400/220 kV Hoody to 220/66 kV EDC Substation for a route length of 13.93 kms and running 220kV 1200 sqmm UG cable from 220/66kV Koramangala to 220/66kV EDC substation for route length of 4.683 kms on total turnkey basis including supply of all materials/ equipment, mandatory spares, erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipment, testing and commissioning.
Name of the Agency	The Executive Engineer (Ele), Project Division, South, KPTCL, Bengaluru.
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are standing inside the premises of existing 400/220 kV Hoody Sub-Station, Bengaluru for "Strengthening of inner ring of 220kV transmission network in Bengaluru City which includes running 220 kV 1200 sqmm UG Cable from 400/220 kV Hoody to 220/66 kV EDC Substation for a route length of 13.93 kms and running 220kV 1200 sqmm UG cable from 220/66kV Koramangala to 220/66kV EDC substation for route length of 4.683 kms on total turnkey basis including supply of all materials/equipment, mandatory spares, erection (including civil works) of all materials/ equipment, testing and commissioning, Bengaluru.
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS coordinates	Boundary / Latitude (N) / Longitude (E) / Location 1 / 12° 59' 38" / 77° 42' 48" / Premises of existing 400/220 kV Hoody Sub-Station, Hoody, Bengaluru 2 / 12° 59' 38" / 77° 42' 50" 3 / 12° 59' 40" / 77° 42' 50" 4 / 12° 59' 41" / 77° 42' 49"
Enumeration of Trees Total No. of trees standing in the project area	340 Nos (Annexure-1) — Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all. **(www.bbmp.gov.in)**
Mode of communication of comments * *(Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)*	**Address:** a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002. **E-mail Id: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com** b. The Executive Engineer (Ele), Project Division, South, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru. E-mail id: eeebmwsd@gmail.com * * A Copy of the comments communicated directly to the EE (Ele), Project Division, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer / DCF, GBA
Deadline for filing objections	Ten (10) days from the date of Publication of this notification in Newspaper. *** Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project.**

In view of the above, the suggestions / objections / comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.
Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA, Bengaluru

QUICK READ

130 Maoists Surrender Before Telangana Chief Minister

HYDERABAD

Around 130 Maoists surrendered before A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister of Telangana, on Saturday. The surrendered cadres also handed over 124 weapons, including AK-47 rifles. According to Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy, most of them—125—belong to Chhattisgarh, while four are from Telangana and one from Andhra Pradesh. The DGP said the Maoist state committee in Telangana has now completely disappeared, calling the surrender a major success for the state's security efforts.

Man Arrested For Killing Five-Year-Old Cousin

NEW DELHI

Police have arrested 22-year-old Ravi Kumar for allegedly killing his five-year-old cousin in Mohan Garden. Officers said the accused strangled the child and slit his throat to "teach the boy's mother a lesson" after frequent family disputes. A PCR call about the child's body was received on March 5 from an under-construction building near the victim's house. CCTV footage later showed the boy last seen with Ravi Kumar on March 3. Police said he confessed to the crime during questioning.

Youth Killed In Holi Clash

NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man, Tarun, who died after a clash during Holi celebrations in Uttam Nagar, was studying digital marketing to support his family, relatives said on Saturday. The incident happened in the JJ Colony area after a dispute between two families over a water balloon. Tarun suffered serious injuries and later died. His father, Memraj, said the balloon accidentally fell on a woman, and despite an apology, the argument later turned violent. The family has demanded strict action against those involved.

BJP Leaders Review Development As Dhami Govt Completes 4 Years

Amit Shah joins Uttarakhand BJP leaders in Haridwar meeting, reviews development works and honours police recruits

HARIDWAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami attended a core committee meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Haridwar on Saturday. The meeting was held during the event titled "Jan-Jan Ki Sarkar: Char Saal Bemisaal," organised to mark four years of the Dhami-led state government.

Dhami welcomed Shah and honoured him with a traditional cap representing the cultural identity of Uttarakhand. He also presented a memento to the Union Home Minister. In a message shared on social media, the Chief Minister praised Shah's leadership and said his commitment to national security, development, and good governance has strengthened the country.

During the programme, Shah distributed appointment letters to newly recruited constables in the Uttarakhand Police. Citizenship certificates were also given to 162 refugees who had migrated to India from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Among those who received the certificates were Shailesh from the priestly family of the Hinglaj Mata Temple in Balochistan, Jaspal Kumar from Bhattagram in Pakistan, Durganath T. Rajput who faced harassment in Karachi, and Hanseri Bai from Afghanistan.

The Union Home Minister also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several development projects worth Rs. 1,129.91 crore in the state. He laid the foundation for 22 projects valued at Rs. 1,014.81 crore and inaugurated 17 completed projects worth Rs. 115.10 crore.

Shah launched the e-Zero FIR system in Uttarakhand to help victims of financial cyber fraud cases involving amounts above Rs. 1 lakh. Complaints received through the 1930 helpline or the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal will be registered at the state cyber police station in Dehradun and quickly forwarded to the concerned police station.

Sivagiri Mutt Urges Cong On Community Representation

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Sivagiri Mutt asked Rahul Gandhi to give more election tickets to backward communities in strong constituencies ahead of Kerala Assembly polls.

The Sivagiri Mutt on Saturday urged Rahul Gandhi to ensure better political representation for backward communities in the upcoming Kerala Assembly elections.

The request was made when the Congress leader visited the mutt and paid homage at the samadhi of social reformer Sree Narayana Guru at Sivagiri. This was the second consecutive day of Rahul Gandhi's participation in programmes connected with the mutt.

On Friday, he attended the centenary celebrations of the Guru-Gandhi Samagam held in Kollam. The programme was organised by the Sivagiri Mutt along with the Rajiv Gandhi Study and Research Centre of the KPCC.

Rahul Gandhi reached the mutt on Saturday morning along with K. C. Venugopal, AICC general secretary and Member of Parliament, and Adoor Prakash, UDF convenor. The leaders first visited the Mahasamadhi of Sree Narayana Guru and offered floral tributes.

He was welcomed by Swami Sachchidananda, president of the Sree Narayana Dharma Sangham Trust. After paying respects, Rahul Gandhi visited the Vaidika Mutt, a place historically associated with visits by Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore when they had met Sree Narayana Guru.

Rahul Gandhi later visited the Sarada Mutt in the Sivagiri complex and met the swamis at the guest house. During the meeting, the mutt submitted a written request urging the Congress party to field candidates from backward communities in winnable constituencies. Swami Sachchidananda said the aim was to ensure fair political representation. Gandhi assured them that the demand would be considered.

Political observers view the visit as significant ahead of the Assembly elections, as Congress is seen trying to strengthen its ties with the influential Ezhava community, the largest Hindu community in Kerala.

Taiwan Sees India As Key Partner For Stability

NEW DELHI

Vincent Yi-hsiang Chao, Deputy Secretary-General of Taiwan National Security Council, has described India as an "oasis of peace and stability" in a region facing growing tensions and uncertainty.

Speaking about the strengthening ties between Taiwan and India, Chao said the increasing number of Taiwanese companies investing in India reflects the strong confidence businesses have in the country's stable environment.

He noted that around 350 Taiwanese companies have already invested in India, and the number continues to rise. According to him, this growing investment shows how Taiwanese businesses see India as a reliable and peaceful destination for expansion in a turbulent global region.

Chao highlighted the technology sector as a major area for future cooperation between the two sides.

Solar Defence Plans Major Investment In Robotics

NAGPUR

wSolar Defence and Aerospace Limited has announced an investment of more than Rs. 12,800 crore to expand its projects in robotics, drones and other advanced technology systems. The company plans to develop new facilities and strengthen its defence manufacturing capacity in the coming years.

The announcement was made on Saturday by Solar Group Chairman Satyanarayan Nuwal. He said the company decided to invest heavily in deep technology after observing the growing use of advanced systems in global warfare.

According to Nuwal, the new facility in Nagpur will have the capacity to produce around 10,000 drones of different sizes and types every year. The unit will also be able to manufacture about 1,000 robots annually.

He explained that the total investment of Rs. 12,800 crore will mainly be spent over the next three to four years. However, the overall project is part of a long-term plan expected to run for about ten years under the Maharashtra government's Mega Project and Thrust policy.

Nuwal also said the company expects to develop and produce its first robot prototype within the next year.

Officials said Solar Defence's move into deep technology will strengthen its defence manufacturing capacity and open opportunities in civilian and industrial sectors.

The planned facility will operate as an AI-driven Industry 5.0 manufacturing hub, combining robotics, smart automation and sustainable production methods centred on human involvement. In the first phase, the company will design and manufacture advanced electronic systems, components and assemblies.

Nityanand Rai Rejects Claims Of New Union Territory Plan

PATNA

Nityanand Rai, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, on Saturday dismissed claims about the creation of a new Union Territory by merging districts of Bihar and West Bengal. He called the allegation baseless and accused Pappu Yadav of spreading rumours to mislead people. The controversy started after Pappu Yadav, an Independent Member of Parliament from Purnea, made a post on the social media platform X. In his post, he claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was planning to impose President's Rule in West Bengal and form a new Union Territory. According to his claim, the proposed Union Territory would include the Seemanchal region of Bihar along with districts from West Bengal such as Malda, Murshidabad, Raiganj and Uttar Dinajpur. Responding to these allegations, Nityanand Rai said the Central government has no such plan and there is no truth in the statements made by the MP.

TAIWAN SEES INDIA AS KEY PARTNER FOR STABILITY

NEW DELHI

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Speaking about the strengthening ties between Taiwan and India, Chao said the increasing number of Taiwanese companies investing in India reflects the strong confidence businesses have in the country's stable environment. He noted that around 350 Taiwanese companies have already invested in India, and the number continues to rise. According to him, this growing investment shows how Taiwanese businesses see India as a reliable and peaceful destination for expansion in a turbulent global region.

Chao highlighted the technology sector as a major area for future cooperation between the two sides. He said India has strong advantages such as skilled human resources, innovation and expertise in software, which complement Taiwan's leadership in advanced technology and semiconductor manufacturing. He added that cooperation between the two countries is expected to grow in sectors like semiconductors, industry and other high-technology fields. Such partnerships, he said, are important not only for economic growth but also for strengthening regional stability.

Chao also referred to regional security issues, especially tensions between Taiwan and China.

Trinamool Complains To EC Over Rahul Sinha Nomination Irregularities

KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Saturday approached the Election Commission of India alleging irregularities in the nomination papers of Rahul Sinha, the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate for the Rajya Sabha elections from West Bengal.

State Power Minister Aroop Biswas submitted a detailed complaint to the Election Commission claiming serious procedural errors during the verification of Sinha's nomination documents.

According to the complaint, Rahul Sinha submitted the mandatory affidavit in Form-26 along with his nomination papers on March 5. During the initial scrutiny, the Returning Officer reportedly identified certain mistakes and issued a checklist pointing out incomplete sections in the affidavit.

Biswas alleged that several boxes in the affidavit were left incomplete during the verification process, and this was noted in the presence of officials and representatives present at the time. However, when the affidavit was later uploaded on the website of the state Chief Electoral Officer, most of the previously incomplete sections were shown as filled or marked "not applicable". This, the Trinamool Congress claimed, has raised doubts that a revised affidavit might have been submitted later.

Government of Karnataka
Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayth Raj
Lalitha Mahal Road, Mysore -570011 Telephone:0821-2522901/906
E-mail:sird-mysore@ka.gov.in

SIRDPR-ADMOEST2/4/2024-ADMN (E-38892) Dated: 07.03.2026

Short Term Tender Notification

Tender is invited through the Karnataka Government e-Procurement Portal, as per the KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000, for the following:

1. Procurement of manpower services for the Institut and its subordinate institutions for a period of one year.
2. Procurement of housekeeping services for the Institute for a period of one year.

The last date and time for submission of the tender is 16.03.2026 at 5:00 PM. For more details, visit the website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact 0821-2522903/906.

Sd/- Director ANSSIRD&PR Mysuru

DIPR/MYSORE/1796/Shirdisai/2025-26

SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector – 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.

APPENDIX -IV [Rule 8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)
Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrower/s / Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s / Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herewith.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000164675 1) MRS. ANITHA W/O DINESH 2) MR. M L DINESH S/O LAKSHIMAIAH	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,14,024.63/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING KATHA NO-152, PANCHAYATH UNIQUE NO. 152500802600800126, SITUATED AT MATHIGATTA VILLAGE, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF HUNASEGATTA GRAMA PANCHAYATH, NONAVINAKERE HOBLI, TIPTUR TALUK, TUMKUR DISTRICT-572224, MEASURING: EAST: 5.18 METERS & NORTH-SOUTH: 6.40 METERS, TOTAL MEASUREMENT 33.15 SQ. METER, THEREON BUILDING MEASUREMENT 33.15 SQ.METERS, AND BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST: ROAD, NORTH: GALLI, WEST: GALLI , SOUTH: GALLI		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000059831 1) MRS. ANUSUYA W/O RAMESH 2) MR. RAMESH S/O LAKKGOWDA	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 2,84,789.68/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSE BEARING OLD PROPERTY NO- 12/12/4 NEW PROPERTY NO- 152200300115900019, MEASURING EAST TO WEST= 4.8768 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH= 9.7536 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT= 47.57 SQ. MTR. SITUATED AT HARAMBALLIKOPPALU VILLAGE K.R.NAGARA MYSORE DISTRICT, AND BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST: HOUSE OF JNANEOWDA ,NORTH: REMAINING HOUSE OF RAMESHA,WEST: GALLI & HOUSE OF JAVAREGOWDA ,SOUTH: ROAD		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000096258 1) MR. PRAVEENA KUMAR VS/O VENKATESH 2) MRS. LAKSHMAMMA W/O VENKATESH 3) MR. VENKATESH S/O VENKATALAH	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,16,191.22/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY MEASURING BEARING NO:97, FORM NO.9 & 11A, PROPERTY RDPRD NO:152500904001500333, MEASURING EAST TO WEST 5.97 MTR & NORTH TO SOUTH 6.400 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT 38.24 SQMTR AND HOUSE BUILTUP AREA OF 38.24 SQMTR, ISSUED GALIGENAHALLI GRAMAPANCHAYATH, PROPERTY SITUATED KARADIGERE KAVAL VILLAGE, TUMAKURU TALUK, TUMAKURU DISTRICT.EAST : ROAD,WEST : SITE NO:12,SOUTH : SITE NO:10,NORTH : SITE NO:08		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 239000002476 1) MRS. VANAJAKSHI W/O SANTHOSHAKUMARA 2) MR. SANTHOSHAKUMARA S/O KARIGOWDA	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,15,493.00/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE VACANT SITE BEARING OLD PROPERTY NO- 308 NEW PROPERTY NO – 152100100900520214 MEASURING EAST TO WEST = 6.2484 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH = 9.7536 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT = 60.94 SQ MTR. SITUATED AT MUDIGERE VILLAGE K.R. PETE TALUK MANDYA DISTRICT, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOW:- EAST: REMAINING PROPERTY WEST :ROAD, NORTH : ROAD, SOUTH: REMAINING PROPERTY		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000129957 1) MR. VENKATESH NAIK S/O KYUBA NAYKA 2) MRS. RENUKABAI W/O VENKATESH NAIK	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,42,860.30/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY E- SWOTHU KATHA 9 AND 11A, PROPERTY BEARING NO. 133, PID NO. 151000200400300136, THE SAID PROPERTY SITUATED AT BEVINAHALLI VILLAGE, CHITHRADURGA TALUK, CHITHRADURGA DISTRICT KARNATAKA 577519 AND BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST: HOUSE OF THIPPESHANAYKA ,NORTH : ROAD ,WEST :HOUSE OF TAKARVANAVAKA, SOUTH: HOUSE OF ROOPLANAYAKA		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000083485 & 228010001461 1) MR. VENKATESHA T C S/O CHINNASHETTY 2) MR. CHINNASHETTY S/O GIDISGETTY 3) MRS. LAKSHMAMMA W/O CHINNASHETTY	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 10,74,438.35/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT RIGHT TITLE AND INTEREST OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY NO. 2317, UNIQUE NO. 152200501400120843, TAGADURU VILLAGE & GRAMAPANCHAYATH, NANJANGUD TALUK, MYSORE DISTRICT. – 571119, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOW:- NORTH : VACANT SITE OF MR. MASHANASHETTY,SOUTH:ROAD,WEST : VACANT SITE OF MR. PUTTASWAMY, EAST :HOUSE OF MRS. NAGAMMA.		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000004011 1) MRS. SUNANDAMMA W/O RAJANNA 2) MR. RAVI KUMAR K R S/O RAJANNA	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,56,949/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY EEARING E-SWOTHU KATHA 9 AND 11A, PROPERTY BEARING NO.345/227C PID NO. 152100200600100524 MEASURTNG EAST TO WEST 7.010400000000001 METERS AND NORTH TO SWOTH 18.8976 METERS THE SAID PROPERTY SITUATED AT KADUKOTHNALI VILLAGE, MADDUR TALUK, MANDYA DISTRICT 571422, BOUNDAD AS FOLLOWS:EAST BY: CHIKKANNA,WEST BY : KARIFUTTEGOWDA,NORTH BY: ROAD.SOUTH BY: MANCHEGOWDA VAGAIRE		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 237000001221 1) MR. VAIKUNTARAJU S/O CHELUVAIAH 2) MRS. PUTTASIDDAMMA W/O CHELUVAIAH 3) MRS. SUNITA VILAS TAKMOGE W/O VILAS TAKMOGE	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,26,292.00/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSE BEARING OLD PROPERTY NO-71/70 NEW PROPERTY NO-152200101106600086 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=15.24 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=19.2024 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=292.64 SQ. MTR. BUILDING MEASURING=69.68 SQ. MTR. SITUATED AT KATTEMANUGANAHALLI VILLAGE H.D.KOTE TALUK MYSORE DISTRICT. BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:EAST : RAMAMANDIRA,WEST: HOUSE OF LATE.CHIKKAKALAIAH,SOUTH: ROAD,NORTH: HOUSE OF MAHADEVAMMA W/O CHANNAPPA		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227050001665 1) MR. SUNIL M R S/O RAJANNA 2) MRS. VENKATALAKSHMAMMA W/O RAJANNA 3) MR. RAJANNA S/O CHOWDAIAH	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 8,73,369.21/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALI, THAT PIECE AND PARCEI, OF TIIE PROPERTY BEARING PRESENT KANESHUMARI/KATHA NO. 543/164/4/361 AND PID NO. 1529OO1OO5OO52O116, MEASURING EAST TO WEST 7.9248 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH-15.24 METERS, SITUATED AT MENASIGANAHALLI VILLLAGE, BOOHALLI GRAMA PANCHAYATH, VIRUPAKSHIPURA HOBLI, CHANNAPATNA TALUK AND RAMANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA 562138.BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST : WAY TO WALK (ON) AND PROPERTY OF BALESHA,NORTH : ROAD,WEST : PROPERTY OF UMA.M.J WIFE OF SHIVALINGAIAH,SOUTH: REMAINING PROPERTY OF APPLICANT		

If the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) fails to make payment to SSFBL as aforesaid, SSFBL shall be entitled to take possession of the secured asset mentioned above and shall take such other actions as is available to the Company in law, entirely at the risks, cost and consequences of the borrowers.
The said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the provision of sub section (13) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise referred to in the notice without prior consent of SSFBL.

Place: Karnataka Date: 25-02-2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, For Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited**

QUICK READ

Peace Hopes Dim in Pakistan-Afghanistan Conflict

Canberra

A new report says chances of a lasting solution to the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan remain very low. Tensions have increased since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in August 2021. The report states that Afghan troops attacked several Pakistani border posts on February 26 after Pakistan carried out airstrikes on Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) hideouts in Afghanistan earlier in February. Pakistan later bombed several locations in Kabul, Kandahar and other provinces. Pakistan's military said 274 Taliban fighters were killed and many injured. A previous ceasefire in October 2025 failed to bring lasting peace.

Frequent Fires Threaten Rohingya Refugee Camps Safety

Dhaka

Fire safety has become a serious problem in Rohingya refugee camps in southeast Bangladesh, according to a report. Aid groups often focus on emergency response, but the main causes of fires remain unresolved. Plans to build 50,000 semi-permanent, fire-resistant shelters were announced, but funding stopped after international aid cuts in early 2025. A report by Global Voices said that between May 2018 and December 2025, about 2,425 fires were recorded in the camps. These incidents affected more than 100,000 refugees and destroyed over 20,000 shelters. The report warns the crisis continues to worsen.

Balen's Party Gains Strong Lead In Nepal Vote

Kathmandu

The Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) is leading strongly in Nepal's elections under both the First-Past-the-Post and proportional representation systems. Early vote counting shows the party gaining more than 56 per cent of votes in the proportional system. By Saturday afternoon, the RSP secured 79,261 votes out of 141,079 counted. If the trend continues, the party could win close to a two-thirds majority in the 275-member House of Representatives. This is the strongest lead any party has recorded since the proportional system was introduced in Nepal in 2007.

Chinese Military Purges Raise Concerns Over Leadership Stability

A new report warns that ongoing purges inside China's military are creating uncertainty and raising concerns about leadership stability

BEIJING

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is facing increasing instability in 2026 as investigations and purges continue across several military units and services. A report published by the international magazine The Diplomat states that probes connected to the February 26 cases may disrupt leadership readiness and affect China's military planning.

The February 26 purge led to the removal of five former senior officers who once headed key branches of the PLA, including the Army, Navy, Air Force and Information Support Force. In addition, two commanders linked to the 73rd Group Army, stationed in Fujian Province opposite Taiwan, were also dismissed. Three other generals working in organisations under the Central Military Commission were removed from their positions.

On February 26, just before China's annual "Two Sessions" political meetings, the National People's Congress removed ten PLA officers from their posts as deputies. Although no official explanation was provided, analysts believe the action signals serious problems involving those officers.

According to the report, many of the removed officers had professional links to senior military leaders who were purged earlier. This suggests that previous investigations have triggered a chain reaction within the PLA, leading to the removal of both active and retired officers.

Among those affected were retired Admiral Shen Jinlong, former commander of the PLA Navy, and Admiral Qin Shengxiang, a former political commissar. Both lost their NPC positions despite having played major roles in expanding China's naval strength.

The report says the widening investigations are likely to increase fear within the officer corps and could weaken morale in frontline units, including the 73rd Group Army facing Taiwan.

Iran Rejects US Demand For Surrender

TEHRAN

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has strongly rejected the United States' demand for unconditional surrender, calling on citizens to unite and defend the country during a tense regional crisis.

In a televised address, Pezeshkian said Iran would never surrender and urged the people to stand together to protect the nation. He criticised the United States for ignoring international law and accused it of supporting attacks that target civilian places such as schools and hospitals.

His remarks came after US President Donald Trump said there would be "no deal with Iran except unconditional surrender," insisting that Tehran must give in before any diplomatic talks could begin.

Pezeshkian said the Iranian people were ready to sacrifice their lives to protect their country. He declared that any idea of Iran surrendering should be forgotten forever.

At the same time, the Iranian leader tried to calm tensions with neighbouring countries in the Gulf region. He apologised for attacks that had affected their territories and promised that Iran would not strike neighbouring states unless they attacked first.

Iran's president rejects US demand for surrender, calls for national unity, diplomacy with neighbours, and warns against foreign interference as regional tensions rise amid continued military strikes

He called on Muslim nations in the region to cooperate for peace and stability instead of joining conflicts influenced by outside powers. Pezeshkian said disputes between neighbouring countries should be settled through dialogue and diplomacy. He also warned regional groups not to exploit the situation to attack Iran, saying reliance on foreign powers would damage regional independence. Meanwhile, tensions increased as Israel launched heavy airstrikes in Tehran and central Iran, while Iran's Revolutionary Guards responded with another wave of missile attacks on Israeli targets and US bases.

Economic Instability Deepens Poverty Across Pakistan, Experts Warn

LONDON

Pakistan is facing worsening poverty driven by economic instability, weak policies and widening inequality, according to a recent report. The crisis has disrupted socio-economic stability, increased child labour and reduced access to education, particularly for women. Analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) highlights that rising inflation and slow economic growth have created new vulnerabilities, forcing many families to rely on debt to meet basic needs. Former finance minister Miftah Ismail said declining real incomes since 2021 have left about one-quarter of the population uncertain about food security. Author Mansoor Ahmad noted that financial pressure often pushes children into work, trapping families in intergenerational poverty. Educationist Saira Samo said nearly 45 percent of Pakistan's population lives below the poverty line while elite groups retain privileges. Economist Rashid Amjad stressed that sustained economic growth and job creation are essential to reduce poverty in the country.

Volunteer at UNHRC says religious discrimination is forcing many families to flee Pakistan in search of safety

India Highlights Disability-Inclusive Electoral Reforms at UNHRC

GENEVA

India presented its efforts to ensure equal political participation for persons with disabilities during the UNHRC session.

At the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary of the India Water Foundation, spoke about India's steps to strengthen inclusive democracy. During an interactive dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on disabilities, she highlighted the country's commitment to equal participation in political and public life.

Tyagi said India follows a rights-based approach under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The law ensures equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunities, including participation in governance and political processes.

She noted that the Election Commission of India has introduced several measures to make voting easier for persons with disabilities. These include accessible voter registration systems and electronic voting machines equipped with braille features to assist visually impaired voters.

Polling stations across the country also provide priority assistance to voters with disabilities to help them vote comfortably. Tyagi further said that special provisions such as home voting options have been introduced for persons with benchmark disabilities, allowing them to cast votes without travelling to polling booths.

She also highlighted awareness campaigns encouraging voter registration among persons with disabilities.

Tyagi stressed the need to sensitise election officials and political leaders about accessibility and dignity. She added that including persons with disabilities in advisory bodies and policy discussions helps ensure their views are reflected in governance.

Lara Delutis, a volunteer with the Rajasthan-based Sambhali Trust, spoke at the 61st UNHRC session about challenges faced by minority migrants from Pakistan living in India. She said many families migrated due to religious discrimination. During her visit to Rajasthan, she met several migrant families and women whose stories deeply affected her. Delutis praised the Sambhali Trust for providing livelihood support, education, and emergency help, and urged people worldwide to promote compassion, openness, and understanding.

Balochistan Faces Severe Fuel And Food Shortages Crisis

BALOCHISTAN

Balochistan's border districts are facing severe shortages of essential commodities as tensions involving Iran, Israel, and the United States disrupt supply lines, exposing weaknesses in Pakistan's trade and logistics systems.

Districts along the Iran border, including Gwadar, Kech, Panjgur, Chagai, and Washuk, depend heavily on Iranian imports for food, fuel, and other goods. Traders say nearly 80 per cent of supplies in these areas come from Iran, which is now restricting exports due to domestic protests and taxes, and has recently imposed a total ban on food exports.

The disruption has already caused sharp price increases. In coastal districts such as Gwadar, Jiwani, Pasni, and Ormara, prices of Iranian food products have risen 30 to 40 per cent. In remote towns like Mashkel, LPG prices have doubled to 600 rupees per kilogram, while petrol, diesel, and cooking oil have increased by 60 to 70 per cent.

The crisis is also affecting local industries. Gwadar's fishing sector faces higher operational costs due to soaring fuel prices, making fishing more difficult. Traders warn that if border closures continue, shortages of essential goods could escalate, impacting multiple districts across Balochistan.

Officials and residents have called attention to the urgent need for better management of cross-border trade and alternative supply channels to ensure food and fuel security in these vulnerable regions.

Experts say the crisis highlights Pakistan's reliance on Iranian imports and the vulnerability of border communities to geopolitical tensions and trade restrictions.

Taiwan Detects Chinese Aircraft And Naval Vessels Near Territory

TAIPEI

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported Chinese military activity near the island early Saturday. By 6 a.m. local time, two Chinese aircraft sorties, six naval vessels and one official ship were detected operating around Taiwan. Both aircraft entered Taiwan's southwestern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), prompting Taiwan's armed forces to monitor the movements and respond accordingly. In a statement on X, the ministry said the military was closely observing the situation to ensure regional security.

Earlier, on March 6, Taiwan reported seven Chinese naval vessels and two official ships near the island, though no aircraft were detected then. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory, while Taiwan operates with its own government, military and economy. The dispute has historical roots dating back to Qing Dynasty rule in 1683, followed by Japanese control after 1895. After World War II, Taiwan returned to Chinese control, but separate administrations emerged in 1949 after the Chinese Civil War.

SUDOKU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	9		5		2		1	
5		1		3	8		2	7
	2		4			5		
	7	5		2	3		9	1
1			7			6		
2		6		9	1		5	4
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9		3		8	7		6	5
	1		2			9		

9	7	8	5	2	1	6	3	4
4	5	1	6	9	3	8	2	7
2	3	6	4	8	7	5	9	1
7	2	4	8	3	6	9	1	5
3	8	9	1	5	4	7	6	2
6	1	5	9	7	2	3	4	8
5	6	3	2	4	8	1	7	9
1	9	2	7	6	5	4	8	3
8	4	7	3	1	9	2	5	6

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Chinese Monk Jailed for Six Years For Teaching Tibetan

DHARAMSHALA

Chinese authorities have sentenced a Tibetan monk to six years in prison for teaching Tibetan language to children, raising concerns about restrictions on Tibetan culture and education in the region.

According to reports, the monk, Palden Yeshe, was arrested for organising informal Tibetan language classes for children in his area. He was associated with Karze Monastery in Tehor, located in Karze County.

Sources said Chinese police detained him on May 17, 2021. Officers reportedly arrived at the monastery without prior notice and took him into custody. Before his arrest, Palden Yeshe had been conducting voluntary classes during school holidays to help children learn reading and writing in the Tibetan language.

More than 300 students from nearby communities attended these lessons. However, Chinese authorities allegedly considered the classes illegal.

Following his arrest, officials did not clearly explain the charges against him. His family reportedly received little information about the reasons for his detention for a long time.

Later reports confirmed on January 8 that Palden Yeshe had been sentenced to six years in prison and is currently being held in Chushul Prison in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

The arrest also deeply affected his family. Reports said his elderly father suffered emotional distress after learning about the detention. The family also faced repeated questioning and pressure from Chinese police.

Amid the stress and harassment, Palden Yeshe's father died on September 29, 2022.

PAK-AFGHAN TENSIONS

US Praise Linked To Pakistan Strikes In Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military leadership is accused of increasing pressure on Afghanistan whenever it receives international support, according to a recent report. The report claims the country's military establishment operates with strong control over national security policy, while civilian governments mainly handle diplomatic communication with the outside world.

According to the report, Pakistan's military strategy toward Afghanistan has remained largely unchanged for decades. It describes Afghanistan as a battlefield where instability can be used to influence political developments. The strategy is often explained using terms such as "strategic depth," counterterrorism operations, or security along the Durand Line border.

However, the report argues that the reality often follows a repeating cycle. It says Pakistan supports armed groups, fuels instability, and later offers solutions to international partners while maintaining influence in Afghanistan.

Recent tensions between the two countries have again raised these concerns. The report highlights that airstrikes, drone attacks and cross-border clashes have increased in recent months, leading to civilian casualties reported by international media and organisations including the United Nations.

What makes the current situation different, the report says, is a pattern linked to international political support. It points out that moments when Pakistan's leadership receives praise in Washington are sometimes followed by military actions inside Afghanistan.

The report refers to recent praise by US President Donald Trump for Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and military chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. According to the analysis, such recognition may be interpreted by Pakistan's military leadership as diplomatic backing.

Although the report admits that timing alone does not prove a direct connection, it states that the repeated sequence of international praise followed by military activity raises serious questions.

India eye historic T20 title defence as New Zealand stand in way

India chase historic T20 title defence as gritty New Zealand challenge awaits

AHMEDABAD

History beckons for India as they face a determined New Zealand in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the iconic Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday, with captain Suryakumar Yadav leading a formidable side eager to carve its place in cricket folklore.

An immensely talented and consistent Indian team will carry the hopes of millions as it attempts to become the first side to successfully defend the T20 World Cup crown and the first to win the title three times. Standing in their way, however, is a resilient New Zealand outfit led by Mitchell Santner, known for punching above its weight on the biggest stage. The venue evokes memories of heartbreak for Indian fans. On November 19, 2023, the same stadium witnessed Rohit Sharma and his teammates walk off shattered after losing the ODI World Cup final to Australia. Though India redeemed themselves by winning the 2024 T20 crown, the scars of that defeat still linger among supporters.

For Suryakumar, Sunday offers a chance to create his own legacy. The inventive Mumbai batter has led India impressively over the past two years, but his personal performances in big matches have often been scrutinised. A defining innings in the final could silence critics and cement his leadership credentials.

India's path to the final has been aided by moments of fortune, including a dropped catch by England's Harry Brook that reprieved Sanju Samson in the semifinal. Yet the team's consistency and depth have made them the tournament favourites.

New Zealand, though, are unlikely to be overawed. Explosive opener Finn Allen, who blasted a 33-ball century in the semifinal, along with experienced performers like Glenn Phillips and Matt Henry, provide the Black Caps with match-winning potential.

Much could hinge on India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah. Widely regarded as one of the world's finest fast bowlers, his four overs—whether with the new ball or at the death—could decide the contest.

Selection questions remain for India, including whether Kuldeep Yadav might replace Varun Chakravarthy after the latter's struggles, while opener Abhishek Sharma is under pressure following a string of low scores.

But finals often transcend statistics and predictions.

On a warm evening in Ahmedabad, one inspired spell, a fearless innings, or a moment of fortune could determine whether India script history—or New Zealand pull off another giant-killing act.

Security fears force England women to move T20 WC camp to SA

England women relocate preparatory camp after security concerns cancel planned Abu Dhabi training.

LONDON

The England women's national cricket team has shifted its preparatory camp for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup to South Africa after cancelling plans to train in Abu Dhabi due to escalating security concerns in the Middle East.

The camp was originally scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi, but the England and Wales Cricket Board opted to relocate it following tensions linked to the ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran.

Instead, around 30 players will assemble in Pretoria for a training camp that will run from March 10 to 27. The players will be split into two squads of 15 each to compete in a five-match intra-squad series designed to simulate competitive match conditions ahead of the tournament.

The two sides have been named in honour of England legends Jan Brittin and Rachael Heyhoe-Flint, both members of England teams that won the Women's World Cup on home soil.

England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt will lead Team Brittin, coached by former Durham County Cricket Club batter and England assistant coach Jon Lewis. Vice-captain Charlie Dean will captain Team Heyhoe-Flint, with assistant coach Luke Williams guiding the side.

Head coach Charlotte Edwards will oversee both squads during the camp and said the intra-squad series will be crucial for players hoping to secure places in England's World Cup squad.

"This is a big opportunity for every player involved to put their hand up and demonstrate that they're an invaluable part of our World Cup plans," Edwards said. "It's the same chance for every player, whether they're new to the team or have played over 100 games."

She added that the camp will provide players with valuable match practice after earlier training sessions this year focused mainly on skill development.

The Pretoria camp will mark England's second training stint in South Africa in 2026, following a skill-based camp in Stellenbosch last month and an earlier preparation trip to Oman in January.

England are scheduled to host New Zealand women's national cricket team and India women's national cricket team in white-ball series before the World Cup begins on June 12, followed by a historic women's Test against India at Lord's Cricket Ground.

Lakshya Sen stuns Li Shifeng to reach All England semifinals

BIRMINGHAM

Lakshya Sen produced a superb all-round performance to defeat China's Li Shifeng in straight games and book a place in the semifinals of the prestigious All England Open Badminton Championships.

The world No. 12 Indian registered a commanding 21-13, 21-16 victory over the sixth-ranked Chinese shuttler in exactly one hour, avenging his quarterfinal defeat to the same opponent in the 2025 edition of the tournament.

The victory also marked Lakshya's third semifinal appearance at the historic championship and kept alive India's hopes of a title in one of badminton's most celebrated events. Lakshya, who finished runner-up in the 2022 edition, will next face Canada's Victor Lai, who defeated Japan's Koki Watanabe 18-21, 21-17, 21-15 in another quarterfinal clash. "I'm happy with the way I played both sets," Lakshya said after the match. "Credit to him as well, he played a really solid game. There were some long rallies and both of us were getting tired, but I'm glad I could stay patient and keep the pressure."

The Indian began confidently, racing to a 4-1 lead and quickly extending it to 10-4 with aggressive attacking play as Li appeared slightly tentative. Lakshya maintained control at the mid-game interval with an 11-6 advantage.

Although Li briefly reduced the gap with powerful overhead smashes, Lakshya held his composure and stretched the lead to 18-13 before sealing the opening game in 24 minutes.

Samson admits overtrying earlier but now thriving under pressure in T20 WC

SAMSON admits overtrying earlier but now thriving under pressure in T20 WC

MUMBAI

Sanju Samson admitted he was trying too hard during India's series against New Zealand national cricket team earlier this year but said returning to his basics helped him rediscover form during the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The 31-year-old wicket-keeper-batter has emerged as one of India's standout performers in the tournament, smashing a brilliant 97 not out against the West Indies national cricket team in a crucial group-stage clash before following it up with an attacking 89 against the England national cricket team in the semifinal.

However, Samson's path to redemption has not been easy. During the five-match T20 series against New Zealand in January, he struggled badly while opening the innings, scoring just 46 runs across the series.

The lean run came at a time when competition for a place in the Indian XI was intense, with players like Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma also vying for the opening slot.

"That was very challenging for me," Samson said after the semifinal at Wankhede Stadium. "I wanted to make an impact and get into the playing XI of the World Cup, but I think I was trying a bit too much during the New Zealand series."

The Kerala batter admitted that the setbacks forced him to step back, reset mentally and focus on his fundamentals.

"I had to respect the game and go back to my basics. I shut down my phone and stayed away from social media to cut out the noise," he said. "That really helped me focus in the right direction."

Samson added that his extensive experience in T20 cricket has also helped him understand his role better within the team setup.

"I've played around 300–400 T20 matches and batted at different positions. That experience gives you clarity about what the team expects from you and how you should approach your role."

Now in top form, Samson will be hoping to continue his rich run when India face New Zealand in the World Cup final at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

A strong performance there would cap a remarkable turnaround for the talented batter after a turbulent start to the year.

Ronaldo injury blow worries Al-Nassr, Portugal ahead of crucial international fixtures

RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo could face a longer spell on the sidelines after Al Nassr coach Jorge Jesus confirmed that the Portuguese superstar's injury is more serious than initially believed. The 41-year-old forward limped off during Al-Nassr's 3-1 victory over Al Fayha in the Saudi Pro League last weekend, sparking concerns among fans and team officials about the severity of the issue. Speaking to reporters, Jorge Jesus said medical examinations revealed a more complicated hamstring injury than first expected.

"In the last game, Cristiano left with a muscle injury," the Portuguese coach said. "After the tests he underwent, it became clear that it is a more serious injury than we were expecting."

Jesus added that Ronaldo will require rest and specialised treatment before he can return to competitive action. The veteran striker is expected to travel to Spain to begin recovery under the supervision of his personal physiotherapist. According to the coach, several other injured Al-Nassr players will also undergo treatment abroad. "He will need rest and recovery. Cristiano will travel to Spain for treatment, as will other players who were injured. We hope he will return soon to help the team," Jesus said.

Ronaldo's absence could be a setback for Al-Nassr, where the former Real Madrid star remains a central figure despite his age. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has continued to deliver crucial goals and leadership since joining the Saudi club, playing a major role in its domestic ambitions.

Sinner, Sabalenka storm into Indian Wells with commanding opening victories

INDIAN WELLS

Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka made emphatic starts to their campaigns at the BNP Paribas Open, powering into the next round as top seeds began their quest for a first title at the prestigious tournament in California.

Men's world number two Sinner delivered a commanding performance, crushing Czech qualifier Dalibor Svrcina 6-1, 6-1 in just 64 minutes to launch his title bid in dominant fashion.

The Italian star, who returned to the desert tournament after missing last year's edition while serving a suspension, controlled the match from start to finish. After Svrcina briefly levelled the first set at 1-1, Sinner seized complete control, winning nine consecutive games to effectively end the contest.

Svrcina managed to hold serve once more late in the match and fought hard in the final game, saving three match points before Sinner sealed victory with another break of serve.

The four-time Grand Slam champion said he was pleased with both his preparation and mindset heading into the tournament.

"I feel mentally I'm in a good place," Sinner said. "I'm calm, I'm relaxed, but I'm also very happy to compete. We put in many hours on court and in the gym, and I'm trying to get stronger."

Sinner has previously reached the semi-finals at Indian Wells, losing on both occasions to Carlos Alcaraz. This year, however, he cannot meet top seed Alcaraz or five-time champion Novak Djokovic until the final.

On the women's side, world number one Sabalenka also enjoyed a convincing start, defeating Japanese qualifier Himeno Sakatsume 6-4, 6-2.

Russell tops final practice in Melbourne as Antonelli crash halts session

MELBOURNE

George Russell topped the timesheets in the final practice session ahead of the Australian Grand Prix on Saturday, while his Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team teammate Kimi Antonelli crashed heavily late in the session at Albert Park Circuit.

The 19-year-old Italian rookie lost control of his car after locking up at Turn Two and slammed into the barrier, sending debris across the track and leaving a front wheel bouncing away from the wreckage. The incident immediately triggered a red flag, briefly halting the session.

Antonelli quickly reassured his team over the radio, saying "I'm OK," while Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff watched anxiously from the garage as marshals cleared the damaged car.

Once the session resumed for the final few minutes, Russell delivered a blistering lap of 1 minute 19.053 seconds to secure the fastest time of the practice session.

Russell finished 0.616 seconds ahead of Lewis Hamilton, now driving for Scuderia Ferrari, with teammate Charles Leclerc completing the top three.

The British driver's time improved upon the benchmark set in Friday's second practice by Oscar Piastri of McLaren F1 Team, who had clocked 1:19.729 earlier in the weekend. Piastri finished fourth in the final session, roughly a second behind Russell.

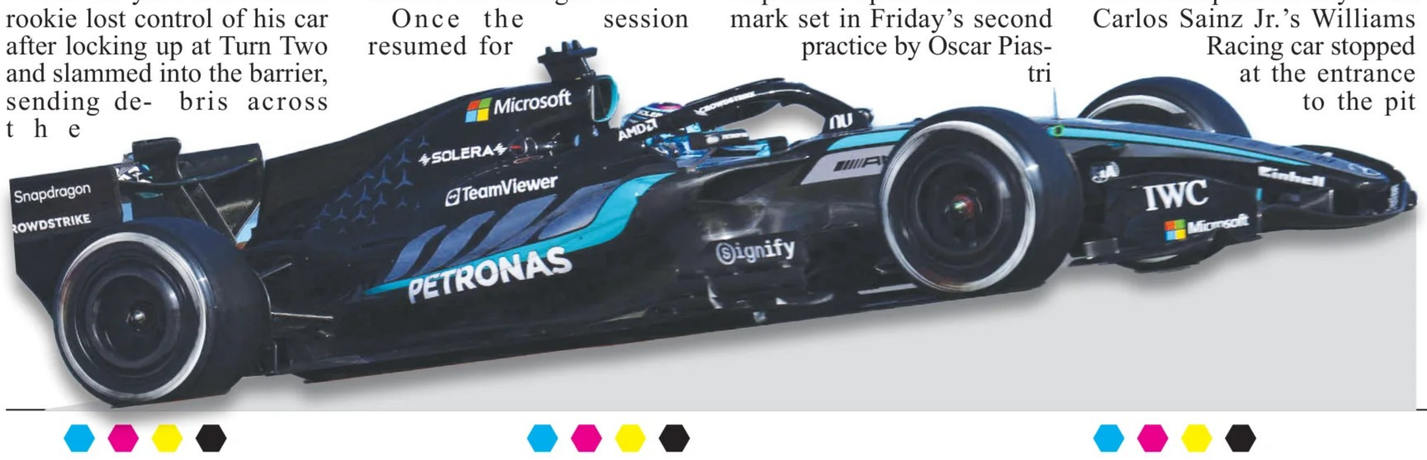
Practice at Albert Park proved eventful even before Antonelli's crash. The session began 20 minutes late after an accident in a Formula 3 sprint race earlier in the day. It was also interrupted midway when Carlos Sainz Jr.'s Williams Racing car stopped at the entrance to the pit lane, causing another red flag.

Teams used the final practice hour to fine-tune setups and collect crucial data ahead of qualifying, particularly as drivers adapt to Formula One's sweeping new hybrid power unit regulations that place greater emphasis on electrical energy deployment.

Four-time world champion Max Verstappen finished sixth, just behind his Red Bull Racing teammate Isack Hadjar.

Elsewhere, Fernando Alonso managed 20 laps for Aston Martin F1 Team but ended the session down in 18th, while teammate Lance Stroll failed to leave the garage.

With unpredictable conditions and new regulations shaping the grid, qualifying later on Saturday promises an intriguing start to the Formula One season.



QUICK READ

India Now Third Globally In Billionaire Count

New Delhi

India's number of billionaires has risen to 308, up by 24 from last year, according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2026 released on Saturday. With this growth, India now ranks third in the world after the United States and China. The total wealth of Indian billionaires increased by 10 per cent to ₹112.6 trillion. Mumbai remains India's top billionaire hub with 95 billionaires. The healthcare sector produced the highest number of new billionaires, while the energy sector held the largest share of wealth. Women make up about seven per cent of India's billionaire population.

SBI Launches $500 Million Loan For Women

New Delhi

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a $500 million social term loan aimed at supporting women's empowerment and promoting gender equality. The loan also includes a greenshoe option and is considered one of the largest gender-focused loans globally. SBI Chairman CS Setty said the initiative reflects the bank's commitment to reducing the gender gap and supporting the United Nations' goal of achieving gender equality. The loan will help expand economic opportunities for women and promote inclusive growth. MUFG is the lead arranger for the transaction.

Govt To Restore Full RoDTEP Benefits

New Delhi

The government will restore full benefits under the RoDTEP export support scheme from April 1, according to the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). The assurance was given by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade during a meeting with exporters. FIEO President SC Ralhan said the reduced rates will remain only until March 31. The scheme refunds certain taxes and duties paid by exporters during production and distribution. Exporters had earlier raised concerns after the government cut the benefits for most products in February.

South Korea Ministers Visit US Over Tariff Trade Issues

South Korean ministers visited the United States to discuss tariffs, trade cooperation, and rising uncertainty this week

SEOUL

South Korea's Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan and Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo travelled to Washington this week to discuss tariff issues and other pending trade matters between the two allies. According to the industry ministry, both officials held separate meetings with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on Friday, US time. The discussions focused on recent developments in tariff policy and the need to maintain stability in trade relations.

The visit came after a recent US Supreme Court ruling that cancelled reciprocal tariffs introduced earlier by President Donald Trump's administration. Seoul hopes clearer rules will reduce uncertainty for exporters and investors. During his meeting with Lutnick, Kim explained the steps South Korea is taking to carry out the bilateral trade agreement. He mentioned plans for special legislation aimed at supporting Korean investment projects in the United States.

Kim also stressed that existing tariff arrangements between the two countries should be protected. He said Washington's use of laws such as Section 122 of the Trade Act and Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act must not weaken earlier agreements. In a separate meeting, Yeo and Greer discussed non tariff measures mentioned in a joint fact sheet released by the two leaders.

Yeo also said a petition by US investors in e commerce company Coupang seeking a Section 301 investigation should not harm broader trade ties. The two sides agreed to hold a joint committee meeting on the Korea US free trade agreement later. Meanwhile fuel prices in Seoul have risen above 1900 won per litre as tensions in the Middle East grow. President Lee Jae Myung warned oil refiners against price collusion and asked officials to study a price cap.

Gold Nears ₹1.70 Lakh, Silver Targets ₹3 Lakh

MUMBAI

Precious metals continued their strong rally this week as rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia pushed investors toward safe-haven assets. Gold and silver prices remained firm despite occasional corrections and profit-booking during trading sessions. Gold futures for April 2 on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) moved higher after breaking the important resistance level of ₹1,65,000. During the week, prices traded around ₹1,69,880, bringing them close to the ₹1.70 lakh mark. However, on Friday gold futures closed almost flat at ₹1,61,675, slightly lower than the previous closing level. Silver futures for May 5 on MCX also showed strong momentum. Prices crossed the ₹2,85,000 level and moved close to ₹3,00,000 amid high market volatility and strong investor interest. Market experts say the rally in precious metals is mainly driven by safe-haven buying as global uncertainty increases. According to Ponmudi R, Chief Executive Officer of Enrich Money, gold and silver recently approached record highs before witnessing mild corrections, while crude oil prices also jumped due to concerns over possible supply disruptions. He said trading activity has increased near major breakout levels. However, the sharp price movements highlight the need for careful risk management by traders.

MRPL Rejects Shutdown Rumours, Says Refinery Operations Continue Normally

MANGALURU

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has denied rumours circulating on social media about a partial shutdown of its refinery, stating that operations are continuing normally despite speculation linked to the West Asia conflict.

The clarification came after a post on social media platform X by OilPrice.com claimed that the 300,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Mangaluru had shut some units because crude oil shipments from the Middle East were reportedly delayed due to regional tensions.

Responding to the claim, MRPL issued an official statement on Saturday calling the reports incorrect. The company said the refinery is operating as scheduled and there has been no disruption to its production activities.

MRPL stated that it has already arranged sufficient crude oil supplies to maintain operations in the coming period. The company also confirmed that all units at the refinery are functioning at normal capacity and there has been no shutdown of any processing units.

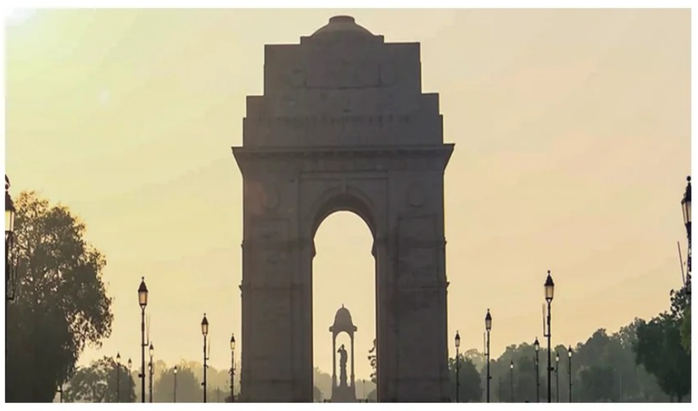
Officials urged the public and market participants not to rely on unverified social media posts. The company requested that its clarification be noted to prevent the spread of misinformation that could create confusion in the energy market.

Similar rumours were also reported about fuel shortages in India. Indian Oil Corporation dismissed such claims and said the country has enough petrol and diesel stocks. The company added that fuel supply and distribution networks are working normally across the country.

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri also reassured citizens that India has adequate energy supplies. He said the government is ensuring uninterrupted imports of fuel despite global geopolitical tensions and there is no need for concern among consumers.

India Revises GDP Series With New Base Year

NEW DELHI



The Finance Ministry's latest review says the revised GDP series reshapes India's economic measurement, adjusting sector shares and spending patterns while improving data methods

India has introduced a revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) series that changes the way the country's economy is measured and understood. According to the Finance Ministry's February 2026 Monthly Economic Review, the update revises estimates of the economy's size, sector composition, and spending patterns while improving the overall statistical system.

The new GDP series uses 2022-23 as the base year, replacing the earlier 2011-12 base. Officials said the updated base year reflects a more stable economic period after the pandemic and provides better data coverage. The review states that the revised framework resets key macroeconomic measurements including growth rates, sector shares, and expenditure patterns used to guide fiscal and monetary policies.

The revision slightly changes the estimated size of the Indian economy. The report noted that the nominal GDP level is about three percent lower than earlier estimates as of March 2026. However, it emphasised that India's economic growth remains strong. The revised data still show three consecutive years of growth above seven percent following the pandemic.

The updated series also includes several improvements in data collection and estimation. It introduces new calculation methods for sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture and uses administrative data sources like the Goods and Services Tax system and the Public Financial Management System. Surveys have also been used to better estimate activity in the unorganised sector.

As a result, the structure of the economy appears slightly different. Agriculture's share rises to 17.4 percent while industry increases to 25.4 percent. The services sector share falls slightly to 48 percent. Private consumption declines to 56.7 percent, while investment rises to 31.9 percent.

Officials said these adjustments mainly reflect improved measurement rather than sudden changes in economic activity. A historical back series under the new system will be released by December 2026 for comparison.

An economist warns that prolonged West Asia tensions could sharply raise oil prices and disturb global economic stability

Oil Prices May Reach $120 If West Asia Conflict Continues

NEW DELHI

Global crude oil prices could rise to about 120 US dollars per barrel if the ongoing conflict in West Asia continues for a long time, according to Manoranjan Sharma, Chief Economist at Infomerics Ratings. He said a prolonged geopolitical crisis could seriously affect global economic planning and financial stability.

Speaking on the issue, Sharma said oil prices have already increased sharply in a short period. Before the conflict began, crude oil was priced below 70 dollars per barrel. However, prices have now climbed to nearly 90 dollars as tensions in the region continue to grow.

He explained that if the situation involving the United States, Israel and Iran worsens and the conflict lasts longer than expected, oil prices could climb even higher. Earlier, many experts believed the crisis might settle within a few weeks, but the situation now appears uncertain.

Sharma said that if oil prices cross 100 dollars or reach around 120 dollars per barrel, several economic estimates will have to be revised. India's budget calculations and the Reserve Bank of India's projections were largely based on crude prices remaining near 70 dollars per barrel.

He noted that India's economy depends largely on domestic demand, which may reduce the impact on overall economic growth. However, higher oil prices could widen the country's trade deficit, current account deficit and fiscal deficit.

The economist also warned that rising crude prices could push inflation higher. According to him, every 10 dollar increase in oil prices can add about 0.2 to 0.4 percentage points to consumer inflation.

He further said prolonged tensions could trigger capital outflows from emerging markets and create volatility in financial markets. Sharma recalled that crude oil prices once touched about 145 to 147 dollars per barrel during earlier global tensions.

India Advances Toward Training 85,000 Semiconductor Engineers Goal

NEW DELHI

India has made strong progress toward its goal of training 85,000 semiconductor engineers under a national skill development programme, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The training effort is being carried out under the Chips to Startups (C2S) initiative of the India Semiconductor Mission. According to the government, the programme focuses on training, up-skilling and workforce development to prepare a skilled talent pool for the semiconductor sector.

Vaishnaw said that in the last four years, India has made major progress toward its ten-year target. World-class Electronic Design Automation tools supported by companies such as Synopsys, Cadence, Siemens, Renesas, Ansys and AMD have been made available to 315 academic institutions across the country.

These advanced tools allow students to learn semiconductor chip design with practical experience. The designed chips are later fabricated and tested at the Semiconductor Laboratory in Mohali, giving students hands-on exposure to the entire process from design to fabrication, packaging and testing.

The government said the initiative has now become the world's largest open-access Electronic Design Automation training programme. So far, more than 1.85 crore hours of tool usage have been recorded for chip design training, and the number continues to grow.

Students from institutions across India, from Assam to Gujarat and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, are now actively involved in semiconductor design activities.

Vaishnaw also noted that the global semiconductor industry is expected to expand from about 800–900 billion dollars today to nearly 2 trillion dollars in the coming years. This growth could create demand for nearly two million skilled professionals.

Government Maintains Fiscal Discipline While Increasing Infrastructure Capital Spending

NEW DELHI

The government is continuing fiscal consolidation while increasing capital expenditure to support infrastructure-led economic growth.

According to the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review for February 2026, fiscal policy is being carefully managed to maintain macroeconomic stability while ensuring steady investment in infrastructure and productive sectors. The report said the government is focusing on improving the quality of expenditure while gradually reducing fiscal pressure.

The review highlighted that capital expenditure grew by 11.2 per cent during April to January of the current financial year, showing the government's continued focus on building infrastructure and long-term assets. In comparison, revenue expenditure increased by only 1.2 per cent during the same period, indicating controlled routine spending.

Officials said the shift towards higher capital spending is aimed at strengthening economic growth and creating productive capacity. Infrastructure investments are expected to support industries, improve logistics, and attract private sector investment.

The Finance Ministry also noted that fiscal indicators have improved this year due to stronger revenue collections and better spending management. The fiscal deficit up to January was lower than in the same period last year, reflecting improved financial discipline.

Looking ahead, the Union Budget for 2026-27 continues the strategy of reducing the fiscal deficit while maintaining strong capital investment. The government has set a fiscal deficit target of 4.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product for the next financial year.

GREEN FUEL NORMS

India Sets Green Ammonia Methanol Production Standards

NEW DELHI

The central government has announced new standards for green ammonia and green methanol to support the National Green Hydrogen Mission and encourage trade in clean fuel products. The notification was issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on February 27, 2026.

The new rules define the emission limits and conditions required for ammonia and methanol to be officially labelled as "green". These fuels must be produced using green hydrogen that comes from renewable energy sources. The government believes the move will bring clarity for industries and investors working in the green hydrogen sector.

Under the new guidelines, green ammonia must have greenhouse gas emissions of no more than 0.38 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of ammonia. These emissions include those generated during hydrogen production, ammonia synthesis, purification, compression, and on site storage. The average emission level will be calculated over a 12 month period.

Similarly, green methanol must meet an emission limit of 0.44 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of methanol. The emissions include processes such as hydrogen production, methanol synthesis, purification, and storage.

The government also stated that carbon dioxide used for green methanol production can come from biogenic sources, direct air capture, or certain industrial sources. The ministry may revise the list of eligible sources in the future.

Renewable electricity used in the production process can also include power stored in energy storage systems or banked with the electricity grid.

Officials said detailed rules for measurement, monitoring, reporting, verification, and certification will be released later. The standards are expected to support cleaner industries and help India become a major exporter of green fuels to global markets.

International Women's Day

Safety for Women: India's Unfinished Battle

PROFESSOR
DR. R.K. UPPAL, (PHD, D.LITT)

Every year on International Women's Day, India celebrates the achievements and resilience of women, yet a harsh reality persists: women's safety remains a critical challenge. Despite economic growth, education, and rising opportunities, millions of women face harassment, violence, and discrimination in public spaces, workplaces, and even homes. True progress cannot be claimed while fear governs half the population's daily life.

The 2012 Delhi gang rape was a turning point in public discourse, prompting nationwide protests and demands for justice. In response, the government enacted stricter laws, expanded definitions of sexual crimes, and introduced fast-track courts and safety mechanisms. While these measures were necessary, crimes against women continue at alarming rates. Legal processes remain slow, and victims often face stigma, making justice emotionally draining.

Deeply rooted social attitudes further compound the problem. Victim-blaming—questioning women's behavior or choices—discourages reporting and allows offenders to evade accountability. Until society stops shaming victims and starts holding perpetrators responsible, legal reforms alone cannot ensure safety. Public spaces also reflect systemic gaps: poorly lit streets, isolated bus stops, and inadequate surveillance heighten vulnerability. Urban planning rarely prioritizes women's safety, even though improvements like street lighting, functional CCTV, and visible policing can make a significant difference. Gender-sensitive planning, adopted in some global cities, can guide India toward safer, inclusive urban spaces. Technology offers additional tools: mobile safety apps, GPS-enabled emergency systems, and real-time reporting can facilitate quicker assistance. Yet technology cannot replace responsive policing or accountable governance. Emergency services must be efficient, and authorities must handle complaints with seriousness and empathy.

Education is key to long-term transformation. Schools and universities must promote gender sensitivity and respect from an early age, teaching equality as a lived value, not a slogan. Families play a vital role as well; societal norms often grant freedom to boys while imposing restrictions on girls, perpetuating inequality. Change requires teaching sons responsibility and respect, rather than instructing daughters only in caution and self-defense. Safety should depend on societal responsibility, not women's behavior.

Workplaces must reinforce safety through strict enforcement of harassment laws, transparent complaint mechanisms, and supportive leadership. Women confident in their professional safety can fully participate in economic and social life.

Indian women have made remarkable strides in politics, science, sports, education, and entrepreneurship, demonstrating extraordinary strength and capability. Yet empowerment is hollow without safety. A nation's development is measured not just by growth or technology, but by the dignity, freedom, and security of its citizens. If women cannot move freely without fear, development remains incomplete.

As India observes International Women's Day, it must go beyond symbolic celebrations. Strong laws, effective policing, responsible governance, and a shift in social attitudes are all essential. Protecting women is not charity—it is a moral and national imperative. Ensuring their safety is foundational to justice, equality, and true progress. Until every woman in India can walk, travel, and live without fear, the struggle for safety remains unfinished.

India Faces Ongoing Women's Safety Challenges on International Women's Day

As India marks International Women's Day, celebrations of women's achievements coexist with a stark reality: millions of women still face daily insecurity. Despite economic growth, educational opportunities, and rising female participation in public life, harassment, violence, and discrimination continue to shadow women's lives across streets, workplaces, and public transport.

The 2012 Delhi gang rape case remains a turning point in public consciousness, prompting legal reforms, stricter punishments, and emergency services. Yet, crimes against women persist, and justice often moves slowly, leaving victims to face prolonged legal battles and social stigma. Experts say legal reforms alone cannot address the problem; societal attitudes that tolerate gender inequality and blame victims remain major obstacles.

Public infrastructure also reflects these gaps. Poorly lit streets, deserted bus stops, and inadequate surveillance create conditions where harassment can occur. Advocates call for gender-sensitive urban planning, effective policing, and technology-assisted safety measures to ensure women can move freely. Education plays a crucial role, emphasizing respect and equality from an early age, while families must balance teaching sons responsibility with daughters' safety.

Workplaces and institutions must strengthen harassment prevention systems to create secure professional environments. While Indian women continue to achieve remarkable success in politics, science, sports, and entrepreneurship, true empowerment is incomplete without safety.

Kareena, Ananya support Deepika's demand for eight-hour film work shifts

Actors Kareena Kapoor Khan and Ananya Panday have supported Deepika Padukone after she called for an eight-hour work shift in the film industry, saying the request is reasonable, especially for actors who are also parents.

In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India, Kareena spoke about balancing work with parenting. She shared that while shooting for The Buckingham Murders, she had clearly informed the team that she needed to return to her children after filming each day. During that schedule in London, her husband Saif Ali Khan stayed with the children and helped manage things at home. Kareena said women who are married and have children should feel comfortable discussing their working hours with producers. While schedules may sometimes change during film production, she noted that flexibility is important to manage both family and professional responsibilities.

Actor Kalyani Priyadarshan also commented on the issue, explaining that working hours in the Malayalam film industry have already been reduced. Shifts that earlier lasted around 16 hours are now generally limited to about 12 hours, though long days are still common.

Ananya added that Deepika had always been hardworking and deserves time with her child.

Shanaya Kapoor
Shares Childhood Throwback Video With Cousin Janhvi Kapoor

Actress Shanaya Kapoor shared a heartwarming childhood video featuring her cousin Janhvi Kapoor while wishing her on her birthday, delighting fans with a nostalgic glimpse from their early years.

Posting the video on her social media account on Friday, Shanaya shared an adorable clip showing the two cousins enjoying playful moments as toddlers. In the video, the sisters can be seen laughing, giggling and running around inside their home, clearly enjoying a carefree childhood day together.

The clip appears to have been casually recorded by a family member, capturing the natural and joyful bond between the cousins. Little Janhvi is seen wearing a bright blue outfit, while a much younger Shanaya appears in a cute white frock.

From their appearance in the video, Janhvi seems to be around five or six years old, while Shanaya looks barely two or three years old. The sweet moment quickly drew attention from fans, who enjoyed seeing the childhood bond between the two actresses.

Janhvi Kapoor is the daughter of film producer Boney Kapoor and legendary actress Sridevi. Shanaya Kapoor, meanwhile, is the daughter of actor Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor. Boney Kapoor and Sanjay Kapoor are brothers, and actor Anil Kapoor is also part of the well-known Kapoor film family.

Other members of the extended family include actors Arjun Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, Khushi Kapoor and Anshula Kapoor. On the career front, Janhvi made her Bollywood debut with Dhadak in 2018, directed by Shashank Khaitan and co-starring Ishaan Khatter. Shanaya debuted in 2025 with Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan opposite Vikrant Massey and was last seen in Tu Ya Mein directed by Bejoy Nambiar, alongside Adarsh Gourav.

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